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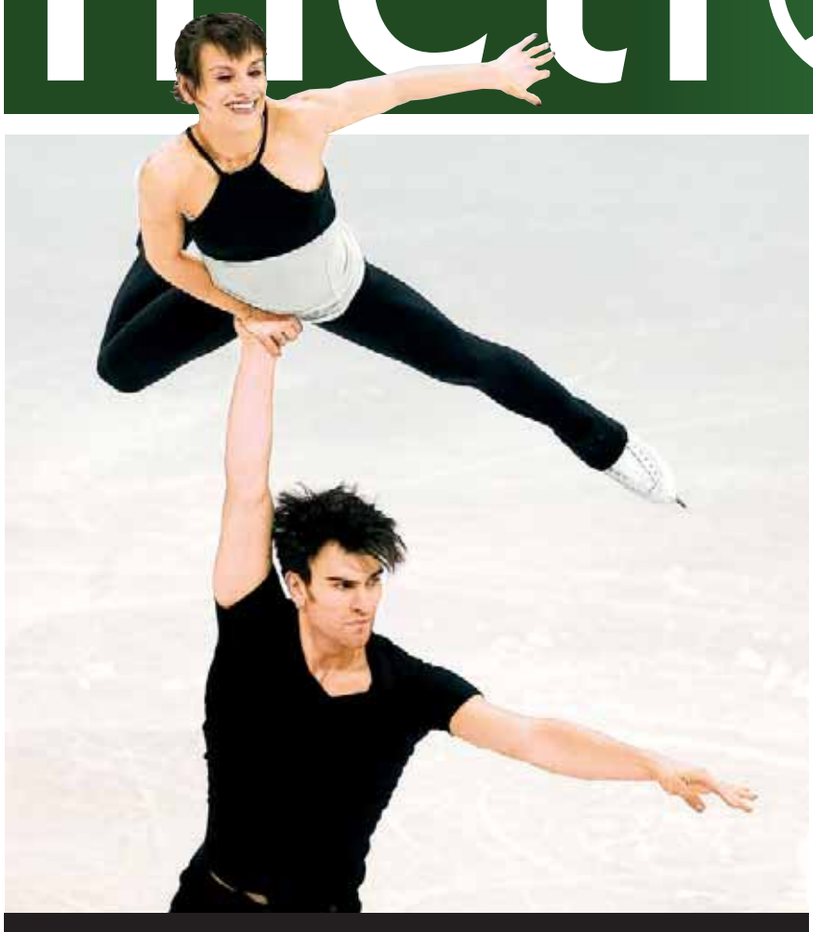


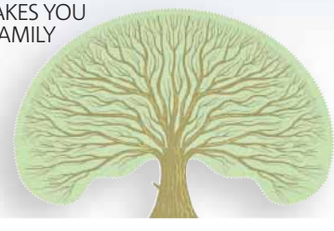
FIT AND FOCUSED

Canadians Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford practise on Tuesday for the World Figure Skating Championships in London. With this competition Canada is hoping to secure three spots for the 2014 Sochi Winter Games. Go to metronews.ca/sports for story. DARRON CUMMINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHO ARE YOU?

METRO CANADA TAKES YOU ON A VOYAGE OF FAMILY DISCOVERY WITH A THREE-PART SERIES ON TRACING YOUR ROOTS. FIRST UP: STARTING YOUR SEARCH.

PAGES 12-13



NEWS WORTH SHARING.

College St. gets papal conclave party started

Bar scene. It's hardly a spectator sport, but the conclave has its partisans: Will it be Canada or Brazil?

John Teixeira opens the dishwasher and a cloud of steam rises around his face, past the alcohol bottles on the wall, and eventually thins out as it reaches the TV broadcasting papal news from the Vatican.

"It's gonna be Ouellet," says the manager of Lifetime Sports Bar on College Street.

But white steam won't make a pope. Only white smoke will.

Some of the men in the bar — a Portuguese, and by extension Catholic, hangout — are watching a network from back home for papal conclave news, just like they're doing in the bar next door. But there is no crowding around, cheering on the play-by-play. This is slow-moving spectator religion, with a side of port, wine or beer.

As the world's Catholics watch the Vatican, many find the best vantage point is on the couch. A spokesperson with the Catholic archdiocese said papal conclaves can be unpredictable. While no election in the past century has lasted more than five days, a conclave that began in 1268 lasted close to three years. Like the song kind of says: "Ain't no party like a papal conclave party because a papal conclave party don't stop."

Teixeira says views at the bar are divided among Canadian Cardinal Mark Ouellet, 69, favoured by younger patrons, and Brazil's Cardinal Odilo Scherer, 63, favoured by the older crowd who like the Portuguese connection. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Young with a vision

> "We need a younger pope, for a new generation, with an open mind for what's going on all over the world, I think somebody young with vision."
>
> **Laurentino Neves,** Toronto bar patron keeping an eye out for the holy smoke

Drug dealer or legit CEO?

A 'legal-drug' seller in Toronto offers his take on why cannabis alternatives should be legal PAGE 6

Conjuring up a hit movie

The Incredible Burt Wonderstone isn't the first time Hollywood has ventured into the world of magic PAGE 17

This may be it for Bargnani

There are concerns within the Raptors hierarchy the player's season could be over due to his re-injured elbow PAGE 28

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25 The West Mall, Unit 1963
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7205 Goreway Dr.
1100 Burnhamthorpe Rd.
3021 Argentia Rd.
789 Taunton Rd. E
1053 Simcoe St. N, Unit 4B
2150 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W
60 Bristol Rd. E
920 Southdown Rd., BLD H, Unit 7
5100 Erin Mills Parkway, Unit V205
4141 Dixie Rd.
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18075 Yonge St.
17600 Yonge St., Unit EE22
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1700 Wilson Ave., Unit 72
1905 Avenue Rd.
4367 Steeles Ave. W
149C Ravel Rd.
Fairview Mall
4905 Yonge St.
5815 Yonge St.
3111 Dufferin St.
3040 Don Mills Rd., Unit 17B
Leslie Center
OAKVILLE
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478 Dundas St. W, Unit 7
1500 Upper Middle Rd., Unit 2
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285 Taunton Rd., Unit 20
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Hillcrest Mall
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1291 Kennedy Rd.
2555 Victoria Park Ave.
411 Kennedy Rd.
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1448 Lawrence Ave. E
5661 Steeles Ave. E, Unit 5
19 Milliken Blvd., Unit U
2490 Gerrard St. E
38 Ellesmere Rd.
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THORNHILL
31 Disera Dr., Unit 140
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Shops on Steeles
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1015 Lakeshore Blvd. E
1821 Queen St. E
275 College St.
604 Bloor St. W
1348 St. Clair Ave. W
1461 Dundas St. W
2 St. Clair Ave. E
272 Danforth Ave.
471 Eglinton Ave. W
662 King St. W, Unit 2
939 Eglinton Ave. E, Unit 106
154 University Ave., Unit 101
2200 Yonge St., Unit 104
2397 Yonge St.
9A Yorkville Ave.
East York Town Centre
2400 Bloor St. W
919 Bay St.
525 University Ave.
45 Overlea Blvd.
Oriental Centre Mall
1448 Lawrence Ave. E
10 Clock Tower Rd., Unit B1A
1118 Finch Ave. W, Unit 1
6236 Yonge St.
3850 Sheppard Ave.
280 Spadina Ave.
4438 Sheppard Ave. W, Unit 151
900 Dufferin St., Kiosk 4010
1000 Gerrard St. E, Unit K2
618 Sheppard Ave. W
6758 Kingston Rd., Unit 12
730 Danforth Ave.
333 Bloor St. E
2120 Queen St. E
8 Wellesley St. E
1965-1971 Yonge St., Unit A
120 Front St. E
660 Eglinton Ave., Unit 104
3151 Yonge St.
808 York Mills Rd., Unit 15-17
2400 Eglinton Ave. W
2900 Warden Ave.
130 King St. W., Unit CW15
3401 Dufferin St., Unit 108
1 Yorkdale Rd., Unit 180
1 Dundas St. W, Unit Z010
220 Yonge St., Unit H014
112-10 Dundas St. E
2901 Bayview Ave., Unit 128A
329 Parliament St.
200 Bay St., Unit LIC - 132B
2248 Bloor St. W
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NEWS

East-end violence

Two charged in fatal shooting

Two men have been charged with first-degree murder in the fatal shooting of a Toronto man last summer. Police say Stanton David, 20, of no fixed address and Orville Campbell, 21, of Toronto were arrested on Tuesday. Both are charged in the slaying of Ricardo Vincent, 30, who was found in the parking lot of an east-end highrise on June 22. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Construction fatality

Worker dies under concrete slab

The Ministry of Labour is investigating the death of a Toronto construction worker who died on the job after he was trapped under a concrete slab. Toronto officials say the man was working for Rabcon Contractors Limited, a company hired by the city to install new sewer service connections for an industrial building in the city's northwest. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CFRB/680NEWS

Davisville subway

Stabbing linked to more crimes

Police have laid more charges against a man accused in a stabbing at Davisville subway station. The charges stem from two unrelated incidents police say. The first incident involved choking and threatening a man at Finch subway station; the second, punching a security guard in the face repeatedly. Cassim Celani Cummings, 20, now faces two new counts of assault. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No casino. Unless there's a referendum, Hudak says

Tim Hudak THE CANADIAN PRESS

Provincial Tory leader Tim Hudak says residents should have their say on whether Toronto should get a casino.

With Toronto City Council getting the hard sell from various casino operators, Hudak said his party's position remains the same — municipalities should be required to hold a referendum.

"We brought forward a bill in the legislature to do just that," he told reporters at Queen's Park Tuesday.

The bill, which was supported by the New Democrats and even some Liberals MPPs, did not get to a final vote because then-premier Dalton McGuinty prorogued the legislature.

"Certainly I would have expected that bill would have passed if Dalton McGuinty didn't pull the plug on the assembly. And I suspect, in her heart, (Premier) Kathleen Wynne would agree. I would encourage her to bring back that bill," Hudak said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gambling on jobs. Execs talk prospects to students

Executives from three rival casino companies visited a Toronto university and college on Tuesday to tout job opportunities in an industry that may or may not be allowed to exist here.

Council has not yet voted on whether to approve the city's first casino-resort. But, in the midst of an intense lobbying and public relations effort that has emphasized employment, senior officials from Las Vegas Sands, MGM Resorts, and Caesars Entertainment spent part of the day talking careers with Ryerson University and George Brown College hospitality students. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

By the numbers

10,000

All three executives said a Toronto casino-resort would create 10,000 permanent jobs. Mayor Rob Ford has repeatedly cited that figure as a key reason for his support. Several unions have sided with him. But council opponents have expressed skepticism about the industry's claims. They believe a large casino would force job cuts at older businesses.

Man admits beating raccoons with shovel

Guilty plea. Dong Nguyen must pay vet bills, do 100 volunteer hours at animal shelter

The raccoon saga of Dong Nguyen finally ended Tuesday.

Nguyen, 55, pleaded guilty at Old City Hall court to beating three baby raccoons with a shovel, probably killing one and breaking another's foreleg, because they were destroying his garden in 2011.

He had made 19 court appearances before the Crown and his defence lawyer Peter Scully struck a deal by which a dangerous weapons charge was withdrawn and he received a conditional discharge on the charge of cruelty to animals.

Pest relocation

Will Smith, owner of Raccoon Guys, a Toronto Pest control company, said Tuesday that he's already fully booked this week.

- "It's been non-stop," he said, adding he relocates raccoons. "They'll come back, but we seal the entry point so they can't get back in."

Nguyen must pay $1,365 in restitution to Procyon Wildlife, where the raccoon with the broken foreleg was treated, and he must complete 100 hours of community service at a humane society shelter.

Scully and the Crown suggested 40 hours of community service, but Justice Marvin Zuker bumped it to 100.

Dong Nguyen shovels snow in front of his home on Feb. 28. He was arrested and charged with animal cruelty after trying to rid his yard of pesky raccoons.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"It's just plain ignorant to kill defenceless baby raccoons," said Zuker. "This man should work with animals for 100 hours to gain empathy toward defenceless creatures who cannot respond except for in pain."

Nguyen declined to comment outside court afterward.

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Medical marijuana: Yes, he cannabis?

Sam Mellace wants to be the first regulated medicinal marijuana distributor in Canada. He is opening a clinic on Wednesday on Danforth Avenue near Pape and hopes to be serving up legal marijuana by 2014. The centre, called the New Age Medical Clinic, will have MDs, psychologists and other therapists on staff.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Liberals can survive loss of Sorbara: Wynne

Stepping down. 'We will be very successful,' premier vows as she touts new campaign co-chairs

The provincial Liberals' chances of winning the next election have not dimmed with the resignation of veteran campaign mastermind Greg Sorbara, Premier Kathleen Wynne said on Tuesday.

Wynne said she has confidence in new campaign co-chairs Deb Matthews, the health minister, and former MPP Tim Murphy, a one-time chief of staff to former prime minister Paul Martin.

"And we will be very successful going forward," she said in London, Ont.

Ontario voters could be heading to the polls this spring unless one of the opposition parties supports the minority Liberals' budget. But the party won't have Sorbara, who guided the Liberals through three successful elections.

The former party president and finance minister said he decided to step down to pursue a new "opportunity" that requires that he not perform any partisan duties. Sorbara wouldn't elaborate further, but said it's time for a new team to take over.

"I'm getting old, and I don't have as much energy as I used to have," said Sorbara, 66, who resigned his seat in Vaughan last year. He was a key player in former premier Dalton McGuinty's government and was instrumental in launching a Liberal machine that has kept the party in power for almost a decade.

"I actually believe that this next election might not be for two-and-a-half years. I just didn't see me working as I had worked before for the next two-and-a-half years."

Sorbara is the latest member of the old guard to make an exit since Wynne took the helm. Former finance minister Dwight Duncan and former energy minister Chris Bentley both resigned their seats last month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Controversial book

Wynne backs minister under fire

Premier Kathleen Wynne is standing by Labour Minister Yasir Naqvi, who denies he endorsed a controversial book on Islam.

Naqvi said Tuesday he wrote a letter of support to Suhail Kapoor for his book, Islam: Balancing Life and Beyond, but said he didn't read it. The book sanctions a man to "lightly" strike his wife if she shows "serious moral misconduct."

In a statement, Naqvi condemned violence against women and said "abuse of any kind is unacceptable."

Wynne said it was clear Naqvi had not read the book and was merely sending a congratulatory note.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LGBTQ magazine to shut down

A popular Toronto biweekly magazine written for LGBTQ readers is closing.

"We are announcing the closing of Fab so that we can focus on the core product that is Xtra!" Pink Triangle Press publisher Brandon Matheson said on Tuesday.

Pink Triangle is a Canadian non-profit organization that specializes in LGBTQ media. Xtra! is a newspaper similar to Fab and targets the same readership.

Advertising revenue not so fab

"We're stopping the print publication but we're not abandoning the content Fab covered."

Publisher Brandon Matheson

Matheson said Fab, which has been in publication for almost two decades, was experiencing a particularly bad advertising downturn. With circulation and readership lower than Xtra!, Matheson said Pink Triangle wanted to put all its effort into the more popular publication.

Xtra! is published in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver, while Fab catered only to Toronto readers. He said it was unusual for two competing publications to be owned by the same company. Some of Fab's content will migrate to a revamped Xtra! website launching within the year, he said.

"Like other media companies, we're facing challenges and we have to do more with less," he said, adding two jobs have been lost in the magazine's closing.

The last issue of Fab will appear on April 24.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fab's final issue drops on April 24. CONTRIBUTED

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Drug culture prompted Izms CEO

'Legal'. The Izms sells alternative to weed and PurePillz sells uppers, downers and ecstasy alternatives

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

The CEO of The Izms says it was the ingrained drug culture at Toronto's best public and private schools that led him to start selling synthetic marijuana and pills that offer users the same effects as illegal drugs do.

"My life was affected by the current system we have in place, a lot of my friends' lives were affected," Adam Wookey, 28, told Metro a few days after his arrest for drug trafficking, in relation to his role as CEO of The Izms and PurePillz.

The Izms sells "a legal alternative to weed" that is made of natural, smokeable herbs mixed with synthetic cannabinoids that get the user high. PurePillz sells pills — uppers, downers and ecstasy alternatives. Wookey argues it's harder for teens to get alcohol from liquor stores than drugs from their friends, which creates a drug culture that encourages the use of drugs and offers a tempting economic incentive for teens to deal drugs. That's why he says he wants to see "drug alternatives" like he sells regulated and sold in stores, instead of being outlawed and thus made part of the illegal drug culture.

"You don't see people getting into selling alcohol when they're growing up," he said.

Wookey set up PurePillz shortly after his release from jail. "A number of us got together and saw there was clearly a demand for recreational products in Canada, and we saw the industry was growing in other counties," he said. "We took it to our target market — the other product was more sensitive so we screened people to make sure they were regular drug users."

Those users liked it and many said they felt it wasn't as addictive as the drugs the PurePillz were replacing, Wookey said. In 2008, Health Canada ordered many PurePillz products removed from the market.

Then Wookey set up The Izms, which is what has landed him in court.

Wookey argues the synthetic cannabinoids in The Izms are not illegal because they are distinctly chemically different from the "similar synthetic preparations" of cannabis that are covered in the Controlled Drug and Substances Act.

While some countries ban newly developed cannabinoids quickly, Wookey is hoping Canada will chose to regulate them instead.

Banning new families of synthetic cannabinoids is dangerous, according to Wookey, because companies will in turn develop new ones that can be more chemically distinct but also more dangerous then the ones that have been banned.

Instead, he argues new recreational drugs should be regulated and manufacturers should be made to perform clinical trials.

"The other option, banning, leads to death, leads to more new substances coming out," he said. "We're at a crossroads."

Sentenced

'Son of privilege jailed'

In 2006, Wookey was given a 22-month sentence after he pleaded guilty to gun possession and drug trafficking offences committed shortly after he turned 18.

The Toronto Star and the National Post covered his sentencing, proclaiming in headlines that a "son of privilege"— who had attended private schools, was the nephew of a then Toronto council candidate and the grandson of a prominent developer — was being jailed.

The Star recounted some of what happened on Halloween night 2002 after police entered the apartment where Wookey lived with a friend. Following a report that someone had been firing paintball guns at cars, police found the apartment was deserted but there was a strong odour of marijuana and found two paintball guns, three bongs, hashish, cocaine, two sets of scales, $5,120 in cash, two stolen rifles and a sawed-off shotgun.

"I know this isn't what I was meant to be," Wookey told Justice Denise Bellamy at his sentencing, according to the Star.

The Post reported on some of the 20 letters of support Wookey's prominent family and friends wrote to the court, which included promises to support him in the community and find him lawful employment in the future. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Adam Wookey owns Izms, a company distributing a controversial alternative of marijuana in Canada. In his first interview following his arrest last week, Wookey argues new recreational drugs should be regulated and manufacturers made to perform clinical trials. ALEX CONSIGLIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"It has a different structure and it even has a different pharmacological effect. While it does act on the cannabinoid receptors, it doesn't mean it acts on them the same way as THC." Adam Wookey

PurePillz and The Izms are still available for sale in some Toronto convenience stores. Some stores reported they stopped selling them after being made aware they were illegal and some clerks warned potential customers not to take them.

Izms: The Pink "Luau Love" is a medium-strength flavour of Izms. According to Health Canada, Izms contains synthetic cannabinoids, which are controlled substances. CEO of The Izms, Adam Wookey, argues those chemicals do not actually fall under the Controlled Drug and Substances Act. If smoked, Izms will get you high, users report. However, Hamilton police say there can also be negative side effects such as: rapid heart rate, vomiting, agitation, confusion and hallucinations. Long-term effects can include withdrawal and addiction symptoms and raised blood pressure, police said. Bliss: Bliss is an ecstasy or MDMA alternative made by PurePillz, a company also run by Wookey. PurePillz says Bliss contains, "Moxynadrone, a proprietary blend of ingredients designed to give you the most similar effect to MDMA that legal ingredients can provide." Health Canada warned that some PurePillz products contain benzylpiperazine and 3-trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine, which may cause increased body temperature, increased blood pressure, dilated pupils, increased euphoria, alertness and paranoia. In high doses those chemicals have been reported to cause hallucinations, convulsions and slowed breathing, Health Canada warned. METRO

Hamilton

Sex store robbery sparked Izms crackdown

Adam Wookey turned himself into Hamilton Police last Friday, after they began investigating Izms because a robber demanded the product when he held up a sex store in January.

Hamilton police then got confirmation from Health Canada that Izms contains chemicals it considers to be controlled substances.

Then, with the assistance of the Toronto Police Service, Hamiton officers executed a search warrant at two Toronto addresses in the area of Hazelton Avenue and Davenport Road connected to The Izms company, seizing 200 grams of marijuana and 45 grams of cannabis resin. Officers arrested Peter Wookey, Adam Wookey's father, and charged him with several offences, including possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking. Adam Wookey would not comment on that arrest. JESSICA SMITH/METRO/WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

riddellcreative.wordpress.com

An Izms 'trip' chronicled

Freelance journalist Chris Riddell smoked some Izms and chronicled the trip on his blog. Riddell said he didn't hallucinate, "but everything seemed really trippy."

When he had a heart palpitation, he became worried.

"I tried to breathe and calm down, told myself it would pass. It lasted a couple seconds and then vanished. Nothing happened but I was freaked out. This kind of thing doesn't happen to me normally so I have to conclude it was due to the drugs. This was perhaps a warning sign of what can happen if you smoke too much."

Riddell said when he wrote about The Izms he hoped someone would take notice and now he's glad Health Canada has. He recommends that anyone who comes across it doesn't try it. "It's dangerous stuff, in my opinion," he said. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

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Everyone Makes a Mark

The faithful brave rain and cold Tuesday to wait for smoke to rise above the Sistine Chapel. DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Smoke signals more anxiety

Papal election.
Cardinals fail to vote in new pope on first try

Black smoke poured from the Sistine Chapel chimney on Tuesday, signalling that cardinals had failed on their first vote of the papal conclave to choose a new leader for the world's 1.2 billion Catholics and their troubled church.

Surrounded by Michelangelo's imposing frescoes depicting the beginning and end of the world, cardinals locked themselves into the chapel following a final appeal for unity to heal the divisions that have been exposed by Pope Benedict XVI's shocking resignation and revelations of corruption and mismanagement in the Vatican bureaucracy.

Led by prelates holding a crucifix and candles, the 115 scarlet-robed cardinals chanted the Litany of Saints, the hypnotic Gregorian chant imploring the intercession of the saints to guide their voting, before the master of liturgical ceremonies intoned "extra omnes," or "all out," and closed the heavy wooden doors.

Outside, thousands of people braved cold night rain and packed St. Peter's Square, eyes fixed on the narrow chimney poking out of the Sistine Chapel roof. They were answered some three hours after the conclave began when thick black smoke billowed out of the chimney, signalling that no pope had been elected.

The cardinals resume voting Wednesday morning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Curiosity rover

Very small life may have been possible on Mars : NASA

NASA scientists say tests on a Mars rock show the planet could have supported primitive life — microscopic organisms. The analysis was done by the rover Curiosity, which drilled into the rock and tested a sample.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curiosity rover holding a scoop of powdered rock on Mars.
NASA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bully babies?

Babies dislike those who are different: Study

A study out of the University of B.C. suggests babies may have a mean streak.

A professor found infants as young as nine months favour those who bring harm to people who are different than themselves. Kiley Hamlin, lead author of the study published in the journal Psychological Science, says almost all of the 112 babies tested acted the same.

First, babies nine to 14 months old chose a food they preferred. They were then shown a puppet show where a puppet demonstrated the same food preference and another puppet demonstrated the opposite preference.

The babies preferred the puppets who harmed the puppet with the opposite preference. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lin's father breaks down at hearing

Daran Lin, father of murder victim Jun Lin, leaves the courthouse in Montreal on Tuesday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luka Magnotta inquiry. Daran Lin had to leave courtroom during one witness' testimony

A father left a courtroom in tears after hearing evidence at the preliminary inquiry of Luka Magnotta, who is accused of killing and dismembering his son.

The preliminary hearing for Magnotta has begun with testimony from police witnesses. He is charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of Jun Lin.

As a second police witness took the stand, Daran Lin was overcome with emotion and left the courtroom trembling and in tears, assisted by his translator as he left the room.

The hearing is subject to a publication ban on the evidence being presented. However, members of the public and media are allowed to witness it. A unique defence attempt to have the courtroom closed was rejected Tuesday.

The first witness to take the stand at the preliminary hearing was the lead investigator in the case. Michel Bourque is a Montreal police major-crimes investigator.

Later a crime-scene technician took the stand. During a difficult bit of testimony, Lin's father left the room.

Earlier Tuesday, the judge presiding over the hearing ruled that the public and media would be allowed to attend the legal proceedings.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

New York City

Cop convicted of plot to eat women

A New York City police officer was convicted Tuesday of charges he plotted to kidnap and cook women to dine on their "girl meat."

The jury reached the verdict at the trial of Officer Gilberto Valle, a 28-year-old father with a fetish for talking about cannibalism. Valle's lawyers chose not to hide what they called "weird proclivities." But they insisted he was just fantasizing.

Prosecutors said Valle was taking steps to abduct his wife and at least five others. They said he searched for how to knock someone out with chloroform and showed up on the block of one woman after agreeing to kidnap her for a New Jersey man, now awaiting trial. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Referendum

Falklands votes for British rule

Falkland Islanders are celebrating their referendum showing that 99.8 per cent want the area to remain a British Overseas Territory.

Legislative Assembly member Gavin Short said he hopes it sends a message to Argentine President Cristina Fernandez: "We have absolutely no desire to be ruled by the government in Buenos Aires. I hope that you now might respect that."

Argentina's ambassador to London said Tuesday that the vote was organized by and for the British just to claim the islands for Britain. She said the wishes of a few hundred islanders are no match for many millions of people who recognize Argentine sovereignty.
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ΔWin Big Every Day for the Month of April 2013. There are only 220,000 tickets available. Tickets are $100 each or 3 for $250 or 5 for $375. The total value of all prizes is $6,690,974.34, inclusive of all taxes and destination charges. Tickets must be purchased in Ontario. Purchasers must be at least 18 years of age. Prizes may not be exactly as shown. At the time of printing, no $100 Ontario charity lottery offered more prizes worth $5,000 or more, including three grand prizes of one million dollars. For a complete listing of prizes, cash-out values, the rules and regulations and the draw details, visit our website at lottery.cancer.ca. Lottery Licence Number 5301. Bank note images used with the permission of the Bank of Canada.

Girls need heroes in video games: U of T prof

Best Dad Ever. Reddit users hail dad who swapped characters in Donkey Kong after daughter's plea

In Mike Mika's version of Donkey Kong, it's the princess who rescues Mario.

In response to a plea from his three-year-old daughter, Mika hacked the game, swapping the characters and bringing a little gender parity to the classic Nintendo title.

"She's played as Princess Toadstool in Super Mario Bros. 2 and naturally just assumed she could do the same in Donkey Kong. I told her we couldn't in that particular Mario game, she seemed really bummed out by that," he wrote in a post uploaded to Reddit on Saturday.

"So what else am I supposed to do? Now I'm up at midnight hacking the ROM, replacing Mario with Pauline."

For his efforts, Mika is being hailed as the "Best Dad Ever" by Reddit users.

It's not the first time a doting father has hacked his daughter's way to hero-dom. Last year, software developer Mike Hoye released a version of Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker that turned the game's protagonist into a young woman.

"I'm not having my daughter growing up thinking girls don't get to be the hero and rescue their little brothers," Hoye wrote in a blog post.

University of Toronto professor Sara Grimes says hacks like Hoye's and Mika's are a response to decades of under-representation of women in video games.

Grimes is hopeful that being able to play as female characters will encourage more young women to get involved in the video game industry.

"As long as the game industry fails to be as diverse as it could be, the game content will be as well," she said.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO ONLINE

The princess rescues Mario in doting dad Mike Mika's hacked version of Donkey Kong. YOUTUBE SCREEN GRAB

Calorie counts. Labelling rules run into opposition from U.S. supermarkets

Diners will have to wait a little longer to find calorie counts on most restaurant chain menus, in supermarkets and on vending machines in the U.S.

Writing a new menu labelling law "has gotten extremely thorny," says the head of the Food and Drug Administration, as the agency tries to figure out who should be covered by it.

The 2010 health-care law charged the FDA with requiring chain restaurants and other establishments that serve food to put calorie counts on menus and in vending machines. The agency issued a proposed rule in 2011, but the final rules have since been delayed as some of those non-restaurant establishments have lobbied hard to be exempt.

While the restaurant industry has signed on to the idea and helped to write the new regulations, supermarkets, convenience stores and other retailers that sell prepared food say they want no part of it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rival to GPS

Europe's Galileo gets location fix

The European Space Agency says it has received the first location fix from its own satellite navigation system.

The Galileo system is seen as Europe's rival to the American-built Global Positioning System.

ESA says technicians in the Dutch city of Noordwijk received a longitude, latitude and altitude reading Tuesday from four satellites. The readings were still very rough, with an accuracy of between 10 to 15 metres.

Europe hopes to start providing an alternative to GPS and Russia's GLONASS system by the end of 2014.

Galileo is named after 17th-century scientist Galileo Galilei who was persecuted for claiming the Earth revolves around the sun. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. health-care plan

Uninsured get lost in long application

Applying for benefits under U.S. President Barack Obama's health-care overhaul could be as daunting as doing your taxes.

The government's draft application is now on the Internet. It runs 15 pages for a three-person family. The online version has 21 steps, some with added questions. At least three major federal agencies, including the IRS, will scrutinize your application.

That's just the first part of the process, which lets you know if you qualify for financial help. You'd still have to pick a health plan.

Some fear that consumers will be overwhelmed and give up. Administration officials say the application form is being refined.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

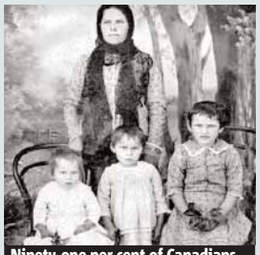
The research

What do Canadians know?

Canadians do care about where they come from, according to the latest stats from Ancestry.ca.

- 91% of Canadians feel that knowing one's family history is important.
- 44% of Canadians have researched their family history.
- 41% say they heard an interesting story about their ancestor from a relative and this prompted them to research their family history.
- 42% wish they knew more about their family history.

ANCESTRY.CA



Ninety-one per cent of Canadians think family history is vital. ISTOCK

The unknown

What do Canadians not know?

While 91 per cent of Canadians think it's important to know one's history, many do not have the information to do so.

- 44% don't know when their family first arrived in Canada.
- 34% don't know either of their grandmother's maiden names.
- 37% don't know the occupation of their grandfathers.
- 37% don't know where either of their grandparents or great grandparents were born.
- 34% are unsure if any of their ancestors fought in either of the World Wars.
- 50% of Canadians don't know if any of their ancestors have been awarded a medal for their military service.

ANCESTRY.CA

In this ever-changing world it's easy to lose sight of who you are and where you came from. People move, families are separated and personal histories fade like tattered photographs yellowing in old shoe boxes. In this three-part series on genealogy, Metro Canada will help you replant the seed of family knowledge and recreate those missing branches. In this first instalment, we have teamed up with Ancestry.ca to get you started in your quest into the past — through family albums, old birth records and stories that may amaze you. Tomorrow we will take a look at some of the surprises that may have budded on your family tree, and on Friday we'll end the series with a look into the microscopic knowledge of DNA and what it can teach you about your genetic past.

A trek across space and time to self-discovery

Family history. How one woman learned about all the things her grandmother never told her

SHELLEY COOK
For Metro

It all started in 1977, when Linda Kawamoto, now Linda Reid, found a story written by a woman with the same name as her grandmother.

The story, which won first place in a historical-writing contest, chronicled a young Japanese woman's journey of coming to Canada from Japan in 1907 as a "picture bride"

"When I saw this story, I thought 'Could this be my grandmother?'" said Reid in a telephone interview from her office at the Nikkei Nation Museum in Burnaby, B.C.

A curious Reid did some investigating and discovered that the story was indeed written by her grandmother, Koto Kawamoto.

"I thought, 'Wow, this is really cool. Here she is talking about all the things that she would have never told me,'" explained Reid, who was very close to her grandmother.

Eager to learn more about her family history, Reid began the task of tracing her family's roots, starting in 1902 when her young grandfather, Sansuke Kawamoto, travelled across the ocean from Meiji, Japan, to Victoria, B.C., in the hopes of finding a more prosperous life in Canada.

For five years the young man worked hard, tilling land in B.C.'s Fraser Valley.

When he earned enough to buy his own land, Reid's grandfather built a little home and began cultivating farmland on his property to make a living.

After his new picture bride — he selected her through a photo shown to him by a matchmaker — arrived in 1907, she joined in on the long hours of work. The young couple established a good life for themselves in Canada.

During the Second World War, like most Japanese people in B.C., Reid's grandparents were placed in Japanese internment camps. Everything they'd worked so hard for was lost — their 10 acres of land, their home and all of their belongings were taken and auctioned off by the B.C. Security Commission.

"It was a really painful time for Japanese people in Canadian history," Reid explained, adding many people to this day still don't like to talk about it.

"Thankfully my dad has always been very good about talking about it."

For Reid, learning about her grandparents' journey has created a whole new journey for herself. "It was my grandmother's story that really peaked my curiosity," Reid explained. "I started reading a lot of books and doing research like that. I didn't get into genealogy until the 1980s."

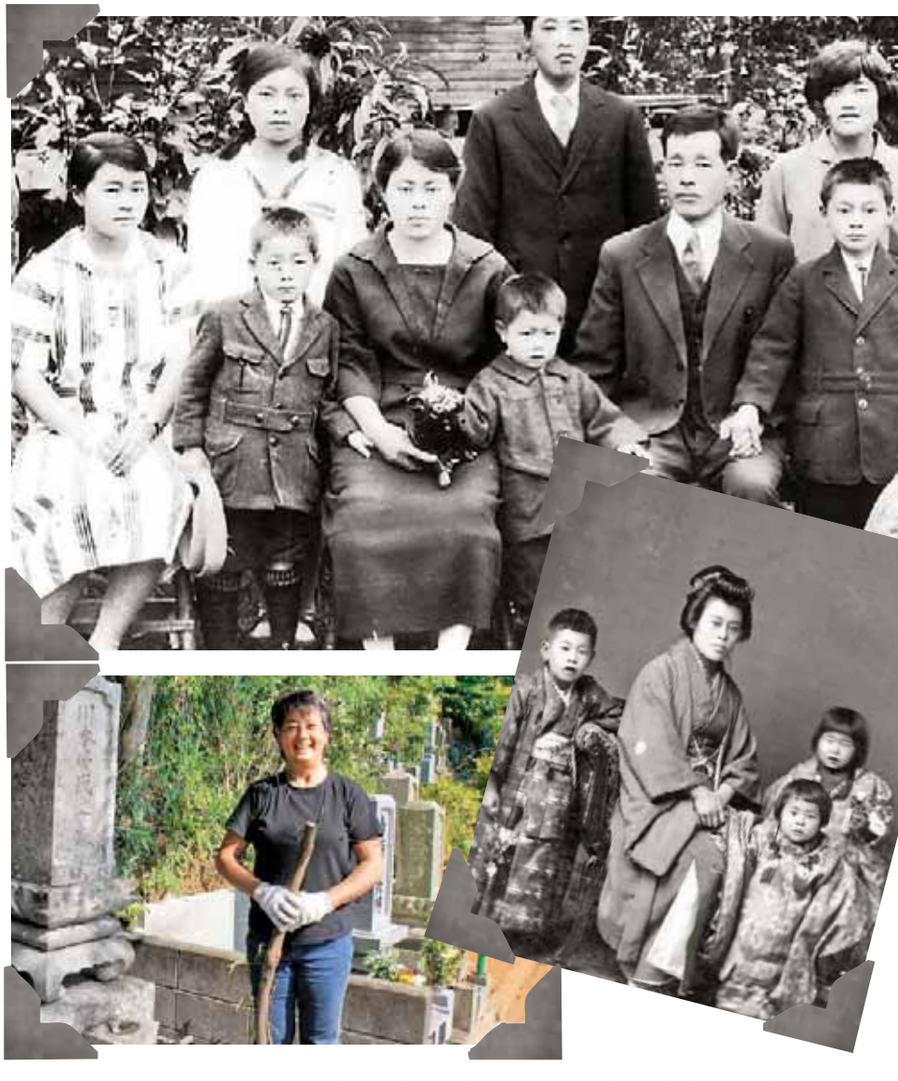
The research archivist has taken trips back to her grandparents' homeland, in search of learning more. She is also a longtime member of Ancestry.ca, where she has found documents and information that has helped in her research.

Reid's interest and curiosity in genealogy and family research has not only helped her find her roots, it has also been key in assisting others in their search to learn about their family's histories.

"It's like a passion for me," she said. "It's taken me into a number of wild directions."

Online

Notorious or famous? Does your family tree have an interesting branch? Tweet us about them at #metrofamous



The top photo was taken in 1927. From Kimiko, left, Fukuyo (standing), Sueyo, Koto, Makoto (boy in front), unknown (tall man in back), Sansuke, Hiroshi (boy in front with hat — Reid's father), Midori, Masao, Tsugio. This photo was taken at the family farm in Haney, B.C. The property was bought in 1920, confiscated in 1942 and sold in 1943 without consent.

In the black and white shot taken in 1913, Reid's grandmother Koto Kawamoto is seen in a kimono with her three oldest children, Masao, left, Fukuyo, centre and Kimiko Kawamoto.

In the bottom photo, Linda Reid cleans the gravesite of her ancestors in Japan. Reid's grandfather built this monument to his family in 1927. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA REID

Did you know?

Additional source

The Mormon church is well known for its collection of genealogy records.

You can do a free search on the Mormon church's huge genealogy record collection (2.5 billion names to be exact) at familysearch.org.

Be sure to input various spellings of the surname and first name for which you are searching.

Try even using first initials if you can't find the person you are searching for by using a full name.

You can also access records, get free help and collaborate with other people seeking to build their family tree.

METRO

Records exist to research African-Canadian genealogy. ISTOCK

African-Canadians

Debunking popular belief

Records do exist for researching African-Canadian genealogy.

From 1793 until the end of the American Civil War in 1895, more than 30,000 slaves came to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

Other migrations occurred during the War of 1812, from California to Vancouver Island from 1858 to 1860, as well as between 1909 and 1911, when more than 1,500 farmers moved to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Library and Archives Canada offers various sources. Among them are The Muster Book of Free Blacks (who were among loyalist refugees when they settled in Nova Scotia) and the Book of Negroes (contains names of black loyalists, their origins, names of their white associates, ships that carried them and more).

Meanwhile, other documents include a list of black chaplains enlisted in the Canadian army (1942 to 1944), and the Canadian Pacific Railways' list of black porters (1930 to 1956). METRO

Tomorrow

Which famous stars share more than a Canadian passport? Read tomorrow's Metro to find out.

Filling out the branches of your tree

Getting started. Even if you know next to nothing about your family, finding out is easier than you think

SHELLEY COOK
For Metro

So you want to learn about your family history, but you don't know where to begin.

Lesley Anderson, content specialist and spokesperson for Ancestry.ca, has some tips on how you can begin your genealogy journey.

"I always tell people to start with what they know and then go backwards," she said in a telephone interview from her Ottawa office. "Start asking family members to fill in the blanks. They might have old birth certificates, pictures, bibles or stories.

"Times have changed and archives are realizing that genealogists and family researchers are the ones who want digital documents to be recognized," says Anderson.

Anderson suggests five steps to get you started.

Dig

Start with what you know. Tap into your family resources and begin gathering old documents and stories about your family's past.

Build

Build a family tree on Ancestry.ca, which offers this service for free. Once you input your family data online you will always have access to it.

Online research may connect you with living members of your family. ISTOCK

Connect

Find others reaching out for ancestors. A membership to the website (which will run you $12 a month for the Canadian site and $25 a month for the World Deluxe membership) gives you access to see the historical records and information on other people's family trees, and connects you through an anonymous email system.

Search

Search Ancestry.ca's databases for your family records. This service is offered to paying members, giving them access to billions of original documents that have been digitized and indexed. This means that you can search the records database by a person's name, location or an approximate date, and all of the documents Ancestry.ca has with that person's name on it (censuses, passenger lists, birth, death and marriage certificates) will pop up at your fingertips.

Don't stop

Never stop searching. Once you've started researching your family's history, keep going. With new documents being added to the Ancestry.ca databases regularly, you will never run out of things to sift through. Aside from finding the information you know you're looking for, you could find distant relatives and information you never thought to ask.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT ANCESTRY.CA FOR A FREE TWO-WEEK TRIAL TO GET YOU STARTED ON YOUR FAMILY-HISTORY JOURNEY.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 97.46¢ (+0.03¢)

TSX 12,878.58 (+20.09)

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Natural gas: $3.64 (-1¢)
Dow Jones: 14,450.06 (+2.77)

Analyst says iPhone will take a tumble — BlackBerry-style

Smartphone market. 'When handset makers fall out of favour, they fall faster/further than expected,' observer says

It's hard to imagine the iPhone's fortunes going through the same downward trajectory that BlackBerry has endured in recent years, but one analyst says that historically, that's the way the handset market goes. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Jefferies analyst Peter Misek has likened Apple Inc.'s iPhone to the BlackBerry and Razr, devices that ascended, tumbled and are now struggling to rebound.

"Historically when handset makers fall out of favour, they fall faster/further than expected," he said in a note to investors Tuesday that evoked the comparison to Motorola, HTC and Waterloo's BlackBerry, whose new Z10 phone starts U.S. pre-orders today.

Misek sees a 25 per cent chance Apple will miss its guidance when it reports first-quarter earnings due to slowing sales in late March following Samsung Group's release of its latest Galaxy phone on Thursday.

He added that checks with suppliers show casing colour problems for the anticipated iPhone 5S will push out its launch to between July and September.

Misek, who had a $900 US price target on Apple shares in August, slashed his forecast to $420 from $500, projecting the stock will trade below its current level.

He pared his revenue forecast and his outlook for iPhone sales, predicting moderate growth and warning of further cuts to his targets if new versions of the iPhone "fail to restimulate" sales in developed markets.

The iPhone has been jockeying with the Samsung Galaxy S line for market leadership, with Apple recapturing the title in the latest quarter. But Apple shares have fallen hard since hitting their all-time high in September at $705.07 on decelerating iPhone 5 sales.

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Bankruptcy fallout

Hostess proceeds with Twinkies sale

Hostess is moving ahead with plans to sell its Twinkies, and one of the new owners says the spongy cream-filled snacks could be back on shelves by summer. The bankrupt company has a $410-million US joint offer for its cakes, which include Ding Dongs and Ho Hos, from Metropoulos & Co. and Apollo Global Management. No other qualified bids were submitted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online security

U.S. cyber teams are at the ready

The U.S. Defence Department is establishing a series of cyber teams charged with carrying out offensive operations to combat the threat of an electronic assault that could cause major damage and disruption to the country's vital infrastructure, a senior military official said Tuesday. Gen. Keith Alexander, the top officer at U.S. Cyber Command, warned that the potential for an attack against the nation's electric grid and other essential systems is real. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Career Finder

BOSTON PIZZA QUEENSWAY JOB FAIR!!!! (Etobicoke, ON)
We are proud to announce that we will be hosting our first job fair at Soccer City, 5429 Eglinton Ave. West in Etobicoke!!
Full and Part Time positions available; including managers, bartenders, servers, hosts, kitchen staff, dishwashers and delivery drivers.
If you are a motivated and energetic individual looking for a fun working atmosphere in a fast-paced environment, we would love to see you this March!
March 15 - 5pm-9pm
March 16 - 10am-6pm
March 17 - 10am-4pm

NEED A RIDE?
Read metro drive every Wednesday.

CAN SOMEONE THINK OF THE ALBUM?

JUST SAYIN'

Mike Benhaim
Guest columnist filling in for Paul Sullivan

Why are musicians still recording albums? Doesn't it seem that the very notion is almost a complete anachronism? They're even doling out Grammy and Juno Awards for best album despite the ever-dwindling hardware and retail outlets that once provided them. I mean, no one has a record collection anymore, just a series of files on progressively shrinking mobile devices.

But perhaps I am speaking in the abstract, and the term has a different definition to the "net" generation.

Now, I'm an avid supporter of artists and do not condone file sharing except to uncover some rare duet between Sid Vicious and Barry Manilow, so forgive me for having recently uttered the phrase "burning a CD," but I immediately regretted it. A gentleman in his late 20s mocked me with the contempt usually reserved for someone who separates from a Kardashian. With music evolving into the metaphysical, this guy would have surgically implanted a USB port into his temporal lobe were it not for its obviously inevitable obsolescence. I am also fairly certain he was watching Shahs of Sunset through wireless contact lenses as we spoke.

Prior to that, I had not considered myself old-fashioned, but it dawned on me recently, as I waited outside the photo lab for my pictures to be developed, that it might just be my romantic sentimentality.

Gather the kids around the fire, and I will regale them with magical tales about a time (insert flashback music here) when phones were answered by humans and movies played only in theatres or on TV at very specific times. You could not pause, rewind, avoid commercials or even choose the content.

These sad children were forced to witness the repeated demise of their musical mediums like eight-tracks, cassettes, records, laser discs, mini-discs and CDs, until the music simply vanished into a virtual, intangible mist. Never again would teenagers line up for the release of their favourite artist's new project, gaze at the list of titles on the back of the album jacket before peeling away the shrink wrap, revealing two panels that might contain a story, lyrics, photos or some cheeky foreshadowing of the mystery that awaited within: The music.

This is no knock on today's teen music scene. Like our oceans, there are still treasures beneath the pollution that's been dumped by the masses, but there is something to be said for anticipation and the aforementioned ceremony that surrounds a tangible addition to your collection. But why build a discernible product if photos and lyrics can be found online and videos are all on YouTube?

I guess what I am saying is that in one generation, we've gone from hoping for some of what we want, to instantly getting everything we want. Destination without the journey, or sex without foreplay, and as my past lovers will tell you, it may still be sex, but the excitement builds too fast and ends way too soon.

Read more of Just Sayin' at metronews.ca

ZOOM

This is a real trunk-twister

GUUS QUAEDVLIEG/SOLENT

Eager elephants show some love

This trio of elephants show their love for one another as they get their trunks in a tangle. The three fully grown African elephants were spotted sharing a bonding moment as they huddled together.

Semi-professional photographer Guus Quaedvlieg captured the moment while on holiday in South Africa. METRO

Q & A

Not fighting but hugging

GUUS QUAEDVLIEG
Website designer, 58, from Voerendaal, southeastern Netherlands

Describe the moment you met these three benevolent elephants.

My wife and I were on holiday in Addo National Park in South Africa. We were driving through the conservation park when all of a sudden we found ourselves in the middle of a big herd. Two bulls were playing and then out of the blue, a third one came and started hugging the others. I pulled out my camera and shot this photo.

Hugging? Were they not fighting?

No, not at all. Normally when elephants get together they can be quite aggressive and try to establish who has authority within the group. But when they all met it was clear they knew each other, as they were really caring and loving.

METRO

Clickbait

Who knew a dating site that pairs singles based on similar facial features would be so popular? Here are some other unique match-making sites.

pounced.org
Always wanted to date a "fox"? This site matches the furriest of friends.

diapermates.com
For adults who love to dress up as babies or think that wearing a diaper might be considered a turn on.

cupidtino.com
Are you a Mac lover looking for love? This site brings those passionate about their devices together to share their love of Apple products.

meet-an-inmate.com
Convicts post pictures and mailing info to start snail mail correspondence. One disclaimer: Their crimes aren't listed.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: If you were elected pope, what would be the first words you say to the crowd at St. Peter's Square?

@Hfxgrows: Hey, get off my driveway!

@MainStPoodle: All pets go to heaven. Expect cats, who are pure evil.

@GilfoyB73: I've done all the necessary book learn-ins and it sure doesn't take rocket appliances to be the Pope Its more like denial &error

@Zaedum: Friends, Romans, countrymen... Lend me your wallets. Even after our tax breaks we are still coming up short. #whatajoke

@danahlstrand: do these red shoes make me look fat?

@GoTireHRM: humour is a great thing, what about.."let us all pray for the Toronto Maple Leafs and their quest for a playoff start"...

@KP89: close your eyes and tap your heels together three times . And think to yourself, there's no place like Rome.

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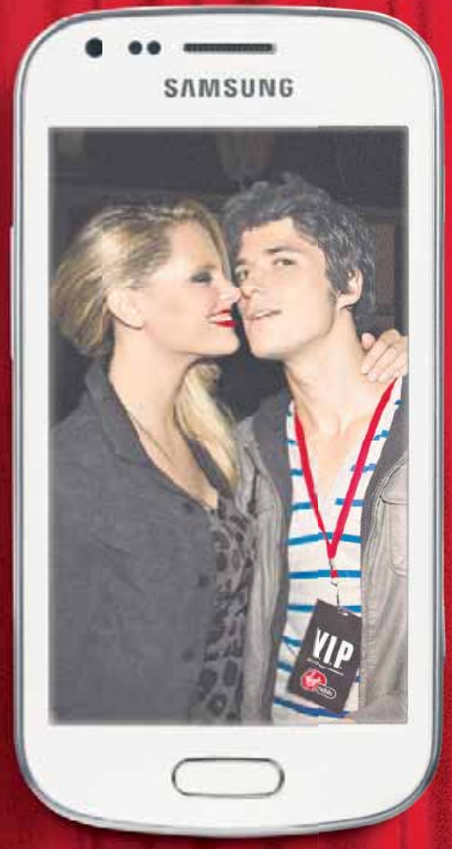

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Abracadabra — you may have seen this trick before

The Incredible Burt Wonderstone. Star studded cast still manages to pull a rabbit out of their hat

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

This weekend a cast of Hollywood A-listers are going to try and do something magical. Literally.

In The Incredible Burt Wonderstone, Steve Carell and Steve Buscemi play down-and-out Las Vegas magicians, up-staged by hotshot Steve Gray (Jim Carrey). Adding more star power is Alan Arkin as a retired magician who still has a card or two up his sleeve.

With an advertising tagline like Abracatastic! you can expect lots of illusions, but Burt Wonderstone isn't the first movie magician to pull a rabbit out of his hat on screen.

In Death Defying Acts Guy Pearce plays the best-known magician of all time — Harry Houdini. Set in 1926, 13 years after his mother's death, the movie introduces him to a Scottish psychic and her daughter, played by Catherine Zeta-Jones and Saoirse Ronan, who try and con him into believing they can contact Mrs. Houdini from beyond the grave.

Houdini has been played by everyone from author Norman Mailer and Harvey Keitel to Tony Curtis and Emile Hirsch, but it's also possible to catch a glimpse of the real deal. The prestidigitator began filming his magic act as early as 1906 and went on to star in a series of films with titles like The Master Mystery and Terror Island, all of which are available on the DVD set Houdini: The Movie Star.

Taking their lead from Houdini, Penn and Teller starred in Penn & Teller Get Killed, a 1989 black comedy featuring a classic sequence of Teller catching pigeons in the park with his bare hands.

Audiences could pick one of two magic movies from the deck in 2006.

First, The Prestige saw Christian Bale and Hugh Jackman abracadabra their way through this Christopher Nolan-directed film about tragic results of a rivalry between two 19th century stage magicians. Fans of the movie will notice the main characters' initials spell ABRA — Alfred Borden Robert Angier — short for Abracadabra!

Released the same year, The Illusionist starred Edward Norton as a magician who uses his magical skills to win the love of Duchess Sophie (Jessica Biel). Norton's character is loosely based on Erik Jan Hanussen, a magician and clairvoyant who was killed by Nazis in 1933 after a long and successful sage career.

The Mad Magician isn't notable just because it starred Vincent Price as the murderous Gallico the Great. It's best remembered as the first movie to be shown in 3D on television.

Steve Carell, left, stars alongside Olivia Wilde in The Incredible Burt Wonderstone. HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Caine, left, and Hugh Jackman star in The Prestige, which was part of a magician movie revival in 2006. HANDOUT

Harry Houdini.
HANDOUT

What's in a name for Don Jon?

Joseph Gordon-Levitt had his directorial debut at SXSW with Don Jon.
JACK PLUNKETT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First, he agreed to cut some of the graphic sex scenes. Now, Joseph Gordon-Levitt is trimming the title of his directorial debut.

His racy comedy, originally called Don Jon's Addiction, has been streamlined to just Don Jon.

Outside its screening at the South by Southwest film festival Monday night, Gordon-Levitt said he altered the name because some people mistakenly believed the film is about sex or porn addiction.

"I called it Don Jon's Addiction because there's this central symbol in the movie of this rut and this habit that Jon is in," said Gordon-Levitt, who also stars in the film. "It's about a guy getting out of this rut, learning to be present and have more engaged and realistic relationships."

It's the story of a modern-day Don Juan, a New Jersey lady's man who prefers porn to actual sex — even though he's having no shortage of the real thing.

Quoted

"It's about a guy getting out of this rut, learning to be present and have more engaged and realistic relationships."

Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Talking about his new film, Don Jon

Gordon-Levitt first announced the title change via Facebook, posting that the comedy is actually about "how men and women treat each other and how the media we consume can create unrealistic expectations that we put on one another."

Still, Gordon-Levitt, who previously starred in Inception, 50/50 and (500) Days of Summer, had already said he was going to remove some of the sex in Don Jon to ensure it maintained an R rating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The American dream of an American outlaw

New book. Best selling author Tom Folsom discusses his new biography of Dennis Hopper

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News

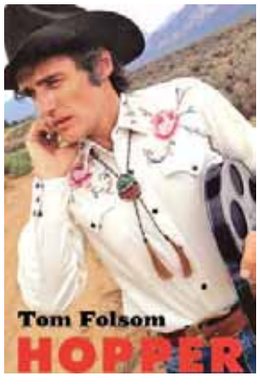
Dennis Hopper — actor, director, artist and husband to Michelle Phillips for eight days — died in 2010 having never put his turbulent life down on paper. Enter Tom Folsom. The documentarian and writer of the bestseller The Mad Ones: Crazy Joe Giallo and the Revolution at the Edge of the Underworld turns to another stranger-than-fiction life. He has penned Hopper: A Journey into the American Dream, a slim and rollicking ride culled from hundreds of interviews and much digging through myths.

Hopper died in 2010. When did you get the idea for this book?
Late 2009, I'd say. There was that whole tabloid divorce, there was this big book of his photos that came out. I had gotten a book deal and I thought I'd try to help him finish his memoirs. He'd been trying to do his book for 30 years and he just never got anything on the page. I write a lot about gangsters and American outlaws, and Dennis' story to me had that outlaw quality to it.

Did you get to meet him before his death?
No, I didn't. I was able to have a great heart-to-heart conversation with Peter Fonda for three hours over tequila at the Beverly Wilshire. He was really quite honest about him. They were these two kids, he was the star of Roger Corman motorcycle movies and Hopper was this out-of-work contract player. He was on the way down when he was doing Easy Rider. He was blackballed by Warner Bros. and they went down to New Orleans, shooting on 16mm and it was chaos. And out of that they revolutionized Hollywood. And after that? It's a disillusion of their friendship. Fonda was kicked out of Hopper's funeral. I thought it was pretty tragic.

Often misunderstood, Dennis Hopper has finally had his life story told.
GETTY IMAGES

When you were interviewing people, how did people talk about Hopper? I imagine some were less keen on him than others.
I found they were very open. They were almost confessionals. Hopper had just died and he was fresh in their minds. They sort of unburdened themselves with these stories. I got some really raw, really honest and thoughtful interviews about Hopper.



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Lady Gaga ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Is Lady Gaga ready to become Mrs. Gaga?

Is Lady Gaga ready to settle down with Chicago Fire star Taylor Kinney?

"From all I've heard, I don't think I'm dropping a secret by saying they are ready to get hitched this year," DJ Lady Starlight, a close friend of Gaga's, tells the Sun, adding that both Gaga and Kinney have free time in their schedules in July. "She told me he's the one and you know that instantly when you see them together," the DJ says. But a rep for the singer insists to E! News that the reports of impending wedding bells are definitely not true.

Selena Gomez

From a wizard to a woman

As her new movie Spring Breakers suggests, former Witches of Waverly Place star Selena Gomez is eager to cut ties with her Disney past.

"Disney is a machine, and I'm grateful for it, but I feel like being part of that environment made me crave the reaction from other projects even more," Gomez tells the New York Times. "Creatively this is where I wanted to go."

The racy, violent film features Gomez and former High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens as coeds who rob a diner to fund a wild week in Florida.

Justin Bieber

Bieber enjoys momentary break from the spotlight in Dutch coffee shop

Justin Bieber took a much-needed breather in Amsterdam between his tumultuous stay in London and his tour stop in Portugal, and apparently hitting up the Dutch city made the pop star a bit peckish.

Bieber and his security detail were spotted patronizing a coffee shop and a chip shop called Chipsy King.

"Justin seemed to be amused or comforted by the fact that the employee didn't know him at first and wasn't jumping all over him and treated him like a regular customer," a rep for the chip shop tells E! News.

"The employee thought he had beautiful eyes and he knew he recognized him from somewhere, but he didn't know until a Dutch film crew told him that was Justin Bieber."

Twitter

@themichaelcaine
Thank You for your kind Birthday messages. Will blow the candles off

@ricky_martin
Of all the "Trending News" out there, the one that I really care and I'm concerned about is North Korea.

@billmaher
Papal conclave has begun! So exciting, like the Oscars all over again- we all want to know:Who will win, and who's dress will he be wearing?

@kelly_clarkson
I just found out I'm allergic to Golden Rod .....c'mon that has to be fake haha. It's sounds like an adult movie, not a weed!

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Lil Jon might DJ your next Zumba class

THE WORD
Meredith Engel
scene@metronews.ca

When Lil Jon told us he was gonna move "till the sweat drips down" to a specific place near his own Lil Jon, as it were, we had no idea he was talking about getting low in a Zumba class.

But apparently the rapper is a big fan of the fitness craze (or just really, really short on cash) and has signed on to DJ Zumba classes across the country as part of a new Zumba Nightclub Series.

Lil Jon will spin on the turntables while celebrity instructor Gina Grant leads a workout. Oh, and don't expect to hear Lil Jon's new single, Work, on the radio anytime soon — it was created especially for Zumba and will be the official theme song for the nightclub series tour, complete with dance moves.

As Metro's resident fitness test dummy, I admit that this class does sound tantalizing.

But I will only partake under the following conditions: 1. I get to rehydrate with crunk juice instead of water, and 2. All participants get to shout "OH-KAY!" and "YAY-UH" whenever they please.

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The final frontier of travel

Chris Hadfield snapped this photo of the Canadarm2 and Dragon Supply Ship high above Earth. AFP/NASA/CHRIS HADFIELD

Interview. Metro sent some questions into orbit with astronaut Chris Hadfield at the International Space Station

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Are civilians ready for space? Should a trip there be on everyone's bucket list?
With some of the technology that's being developed, you can launch off the ground, go up high enough so you just get to the legal definition of space, about a 100 kilometres up or so. And then come back down again. Pretty amazing voyage. Are civilians ready for space? Well I'm a civilian. Most of the people that fly in space are civilians. I think the real question is, are untrained passengers ready for spaceflight, and should it be on everyone's bucket list? Well of course! It's just such a cool thing. Number one to be weightless, to be able to just tumble, even only for a few minutes to be able to do that is a completely rare experience. But to be able to see the world from this altitude, to be able to look down and see the curvature of the earth, and the thin atmosphere and the beauty of it and the colours of it.

If you were writing a TripAdvisor review of the International Space Station what would it say?
So if I was writing a TripAdvisor for the Space Station, what would I say? Unique destination. Travel there is difficult but worth the ride. Accommodation and food are spartan, functional but healthy and overall acceptable. Recreational activities are limited. But the view out the window is out of this world.

Which places have intrigued you enough to want to visit once you return to Earth — and why?
Deserts are some of the most beautiful things you see because the colours are so widespread and the sand and the rock forms into such — they're natural shapes, but they look so artistic and beautiful. And up here, we're removed so we just see the artistry but I'd like to go and actually feel what that's like. To compare the super high altitude, very calm and overpoweringly visual aspect of it with the visceral, five sense reality of what those places are like, I'd like to go and experience that so I can compare the two and try to match them together in my head.

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If you go...

- **Where to stay.** The Mayan Riviera is also becoming a fast favourite with those seeking a smaller, boutique-hotel experience. There's a growing luxury travel market as well, if you're the type that requires a staff or a yacht — or both. But if you're vacationing with another couple, a small group or your family, renting a condo is a perfect way to get some privacy.
- **How to get there.** Make sure you do the math. It might be worth it to just book a flight and choose accommodation separately, rather than go the all-inclusive route.

The Mayan Riviera, running from Cancun to Tulum, is best known for the multitude of resorts anchoring a string of 10 beach towns that dot the coast from Puerto Morelos to Punta Allen, all offering the best in sun and white, white sand. Just 40 minutes south of Cancun, the city of Playa del Carmen (population 150,000) sits near the middle of the Mayan Riviera, opposite the island of Cozumel. Calm, cool and collected, the vibe is assuredly unhurried. And whether you're touring around, enjoying the water, hunting for souvenirs or just sitting in a chair, you'll find great people, sublime scenery and amazing food.

DOUG WALLACE
life@metronews.ca

Fall in love with the Playa

A visit to Tulum is a must while visiting Playa del Carmen. ALL PHOTOS: PAUL MCCROSSIN

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The main drag

Avenida Quinta (Fifth Avenue) is the main pedestrian strip, where you can get your shop on any time of the day or night. Hundreds of restaurants, bars and stores line this little main drag, catering to the daily influx of tourists popping off cruiseships for a poke around town. They dock near the south end of Fifth Avenue, making it more touristy. Stick to the north end for some peace and quiet, plus a better quality of shopping and dining.

Sweet success

Business in this tiny town in general is booming — but not in a way that makes the bustle too much to bear. Though city planners are trying to maintain Playa's community charm, you should pay a visit before the Hard Rock Café and Ruth's Chris move in. With more development on the horizon, the whole area is gearing up for even more of an influx of cash. High-end luxury retailers are already setting up shop, including Louis Vuitton, Hugo Boss and Christian Dior. Stores such as H&M, West Elm and Design Within Reach are said to be waiting in the wings.

Day tripping

While sitting in a chair staring at the surf has its benefits, block off a day to rent a car for a drive to Tulum, and a visit to both the 13th-century ruins and the surrounding beaches.

The only Mayan city built on a coastline, the Tulum pre-hispanic ruins are ringed by a limestone wall seven metres thick, with the prominent castle sitting at the top of the limestone bluffs. This is a very popular tourist site, so try to get there as close to opening time as possible (8 a.m.) to avoid the throngs and take advantage of the best sunlight of the day for your photos.

Scuba & snorkel

It was scuba diving that helped put Playa del Carmen on the map. It was just a sleepy little fishing town until a ferry service began from there to the island of Cozumel, one of the best places to dive in the world. The Great Mesoamerican Reef, which stretches 725 kilometres from Cancun south to the Bay Islands of Honduras, is the world's second largest reef.

It marks the spot for surveying 150 varieties of reef fish and 100 species of coral. Freshwater sinkholes, called cenotes, make for a fun afternoon of crystal-clear diving or snorkelling in and around caves where the visibility can reach up to 125 metres year-round.

Sian Ka'an biosphere reserve

At 1.3 million acres, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is the largest protected area in the Mexican Caribbean and includes the 23 archeological sites of the Maya civilization. Promoting ecosystem conservation and the sustainability of natural resources, the Centro Ecológico champions low-impact tourist activities, while educating visitors about the region at the same time. Pastimes include flyfishing, kayaking, "ponga" boat tours and more, and you can even stay at the centre in deluxe, eco-friendly cabins.

Try scuba or snorkelling — Playa del Carmen is close to some great reefs.

The sites near Playa del Carmen offer plenty for history buffs.

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Spend some summer time at Windermere

Lake loving. Nestled in the Rockies is a shallow, warm lake that's perfect for water sports

Winter, spring, summer or fall there's one main attraction that keeps visitors coming back to the B.C. resort town of Invermere.

It's Lake Windermere.

Nestled in the scenic Columbia Valley with the Rocky Mountains to the east and the Purcell Mountains to the west, Lake Windermere is actually a very large widening in the Columbia River.

It's one of the largest and warmest lakes in the region and has an average depth of only four-and-a-half metres.

"The lake is pretty much the focus," said Heidi Korven, a travel media specialist with Tourism B.C.

"In winter they have the 'White Way' on the lake. It's a 16-kilometre stretch where they clear it for ice skating as well as (put) tracks on it for cross-country skiing on the lake, so that's kind of cool. They also have pond hockey and a curling bonspiel," she said.

"It's a very cool thing you can do — very Canadiana because you're right in the valley there with the Rockies on one side and the Purcells on the other on this beautiful lake in the winter.

"In the summer the main draw is again the lake because they've got great beaches and it's a really good lake for jet skiing."

The town of 4,000 is about a three-hour drive (277 kilometres) west of Calgary and is a half hour away from ski resorts at Panorama Mountain Village to the west and the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort ski area to the south.

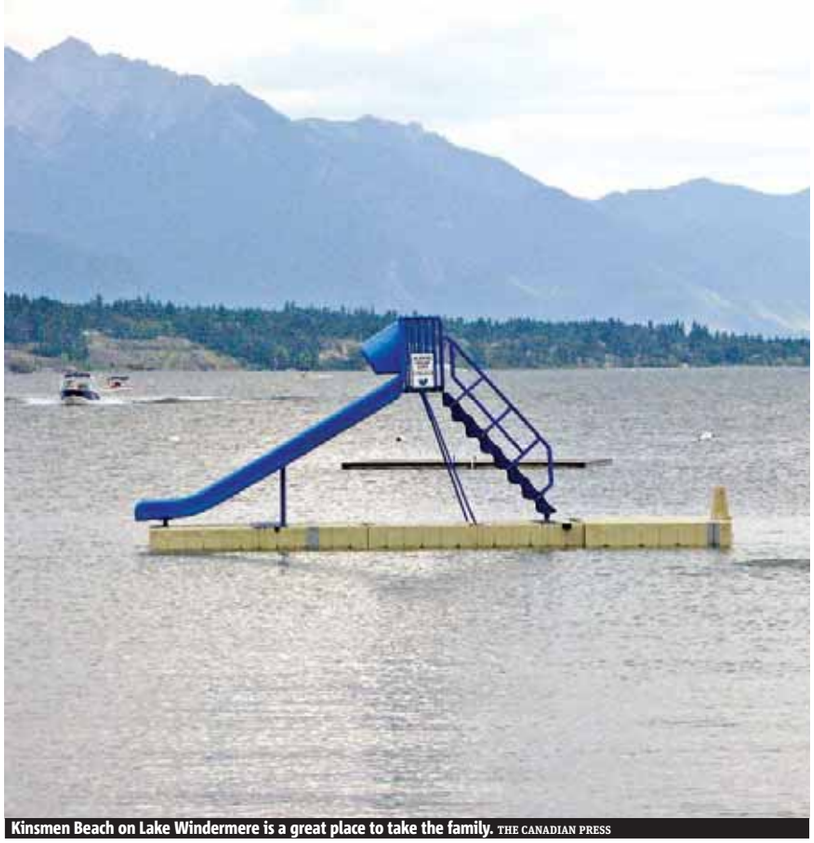
There are the Radium and Fairmont hot springs year round and in the summer the Columbia Valley Golf Trail features nine golf courses within minutes of Invermere — including the Radium Resort Course, Eagle Ranch, Copper Point and Greywolf.

"The town is really hopping in the summer," said Korven.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

- **Take a tour of the Columbia River wetlands.** wetlandsadventures.com
- **Information on activities.** hellobc.com/invermere.aspx
- **Explore the Columbia Valley Golf Trail.** columbiavalleygolftrail.com



Kinsmen Beach on Lake Windermere is a great place to take the family. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bake like the Irish with Soda Bread

This classic Irish quick bread — no rising time needed — lends itself to numerous creative variations. Traditional recipes often call for nothing but flour, salt, baking soda and buttermilk or yogurt.

Currants are a common addition, but that's just the start. Any number of seeds, nuts, chopped dried fruit and even chocolate can be added.

For this take on Soda Bread, start with a rich take on the classic recipe, studding it with currants and caraway seeds. Then swap those out to make an oatmeal-rye version with walnuts and fresh thyme and chives. And for a sweet finish, create a chocolate variation, adding a generous half a cup of cocoa powder, dried cherries and dark chocolate.

Soda Bread

1. Heat the oven to 400 F. Coat a loaf pan or a 9-by-9-inch baking pan with cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, salt, baking soda and caraway seeds. While stirring, mix in the melted butter until small lumps form and the butter has been evenly distributed. Gently stir in the currants.

3. In a small bowl, whisk together the egg and buttermilk. All at once, pour the egg-buttermilk mixture into the flour mixture. Stir gently but thoroughly, just until the flour mixture is moistened. Do not over-mix the dough or the bread will be tough.

4. Scoop the dough into the prepared pan and bake for 30 to 40 minutes, or until a wooden skewer or cake tester inserted at the centre comes out clean. Allow to cool in the pan for 5 to 10 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack. Serve warm with butter or jam.

Oatmeal-Rye Soda Bread with Herbs and Walnuts

1. Follow the recipe above, but instead of white pastry flour substitute 2 1/2 cups whole-wheat pastry flour, 1 cup oatmeal and 1 cup rye flour. Omit the caraway seeds. In place of the currants, stir in 3 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme, 3 tablespoons chopped fresh chives and 1 cup chopped toasted walnuts. Bake as directed.

Ingredients

- 4 cups white pastry flour
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp caraway seeds
- 6 tbsp (3/4 stick) unsalted butter, melted
- 3/4 cup dried currants, plumped in hot water
- 1 egg
- 1 2/3 cups buttermilk or plain regular yogurt (not Greek style)

Double Chocolate Cherry Soda Bread

1. Follow the main recipe, but sift 1/2 cup cocoa powder into the dry ingredients in the first step. Also, increase the sugar to 2/3 cup and omit the caraway seeds. In place of the currants, stir in 1 cup chopped dried cherries and 1 cup chopped dark chocolate. Bake as directed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soda Bread

Each recipe serves about 12. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Irish Coffee

- Boiling water
- Hot coffee
- 2 sugar cubes
- 1 1/2 oz Irish whiskey
- 1/4 cup whipping cream, lightly beaten (but still pourable)

Fill large coffee cup with boiling water to preheat. Let stand 1 minute then empty glass. Fill glass three-quarters full with hot coffee. Add sugar, stir until dissolved. Stir in whiskey. Top coffee-whiskey blend with the lightly whipped cream. To do this, hold overturned spoon over coffee, then slowly pour the cream over it. Goal is for cream to float on top of coffee. Do not mix.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ THE BUENA VISTA CAFE, SAN FRANCISCO

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Earn while you learn as an apprentice

Won't you be my mentor? How to pin down a program that suits your success plan

CHRISTINA PELLEGRINI
TalentEgg.ca

Apprenticeships provide workers with the knowledge and technical skill they need to know work in the trades.

They also allow individuals an opportunity to find a career they love, get certified and get paid in the process.

If want to be an apprentice in Canada, it's your responsibility to find an employer who's willing to hire, supervise and mentor you.

Sounds easy, right? According to a 2010 Canadian Apprenticeship Forum report, finding a supportive employer who's willing to sponsor you is often the hardest part of the process.

Darrin Carron, dean and principal at Durham College's School of Skilled Trades, Apprenticeship and Renewable Technology located east of Toronto in Oshawa and Whitby, offers tips on how to find an employer-sponsor.

Get training in high school

Youth apprenticeships are a great way for high school students to explore the trades, connect with an employer and earn hours toward your apprenticeship while working toward a secondary school diploma.

These programs have different names and eligibility requirements depending on where you live because they're administered by the provinces/territories. To be eligible in Ontario, for example, you must at least 16 years old and a full-time Grade 11 high school student.

Contact your regional apprenticeship office if you're interested in enrolling in an apprenticeship program in Canada. ISTOCK

Work as a general labourer

Getting a job as a labourer shows an employer that you're willing to learn and work. It can help you meet people in the industry and increase the size of your network.

You can contact them again when it's time to find an employer-sponsor for an apprenticeship.

Cold call local businesses

Flip through your old dusty phone book and call local businesses in your area to search for apprenticeship opportunities. A career counsellor can help you structure and practise your script. Having a plan to wow the employer can help you get an interview.

Dial-a-job

> "Flip through your old dusty phone book and call local businesses in your area to search for apprenticeship opportunities."
>
> Darrin Carron
> Dean and principal at Durham College's School of Skilled Trades

Build your network

Who you know matters and knowing someone in the trade is the best way to find a sponsor. Ask your parents, family, teachers, friends and acquaintances if they know anyone in your trade.

Search for company owners on LinkedIn. This will help you build relationships and learn about unadvertised opportunities.

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Machines on the mend

Big business. Your questions about heavy duty equipment technicians answered

CHRISTINA PELLEGRINI
TalentEgg.ca

Heavy duty equipment technicians diagnose, repair and maintain a variety of heavy duty vehicles, including bulldozers, cranes, graders, tractors, paving equipment, off-road haulers and earth movers.

They interpret work orders, keep equipment cleaned, test repaired equipment to ensure safety regulations are met and write service reports.

Technicians often use electronic and computerized testing devices to identify problems and problem solving skills to recommend solutions.

What are common job titles?

Heavy duty equipment technicians are also commonly known as:

- Heavy duty equipment mechanics
- Construction equipment mechanics
- Farm equipment mechanics
- Heavy equipment mechanic
- Heavy mobile logging equipment mechanic
- Heavy mobile mining equipment mechanic
- Tractor mechanic

What are the working conditions like?

Some heavy duty equipment technicians work in labs or service centres, while others work on construction or industrial sites, such as oil and gas operations or at mines.

Mobility, working hours and environmental conditions will vary depending on your position, employer and which part of the country you're working in. However, maintaining a safe workplace will be a top priority no matter where you work or which company you work for.

Are heavy duty equipment technicians licensed?

According to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, trade certification for heavy duty equipment technicians is mandatory in Quebec and Alberta, and available but voluntary in all other provinces and territories.

Red Seal endorsement is available nationwide for individuals upon successful completion of the inter-provincial Certificate of Qualification exam. You can challenge the C of Q exam after completing a three- to six-year apprenticeship program (duration depends on your previous experience and where you live) and require a minimum score of 70 per cent on your exam to pass.

In terms of education requirements, it's recommended that you graduate from high school and gain credits toward your apprenticeship by enrolling in a youth apprenticeship program. But many employers, even the ones who operate in non-compulsory provinces, hire technicians that are licensed journeypersons. In some cases, licensed automotive service technicians and truck and transport mechanics are preferred over heavy duty technicians.

The term "quick fix" does not apply to this career path. ISTOCK

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Keep your eyes on the prize as you set out to succeed as an electrician. ISTOCK

Shine on the electrician exam

Socket to me.
Prepping for this test will take patience and positive thinking

CHRISTINA PELLEGRINI
TalentEgg.ca

Construction and maintenance electrician is one of 55 trades in Canada that requires tradespeople to become a licensed journeyperson by your province or territory.

After completing an apprenticeship, you are required to pass the inter-provincial exam called the Certificate of Qualification.

Earning at least 70 per cent on the C of Q exam (a passing grade) is one of the biggest challenges for many aspiring electricians.

Leo Bitonte, a journeyman electrician who challenged and passed the C of Q last year, and Sam Mallak from Electricalexam.ca, a company that offers pre-exam tutoring in Canada, provide insight into common challenges and solutions that will help you study effectively, pass the C of Q and earn your license.

How you're approaching the exam

You're taking shortcuts
Don't rely on your friends to tell you about the questions on their exam (they're constantly changing) and don't buy outdated books because you think you're saving money. Learn the content you're required to know because employers are looking to hire licensed electricians who are knowledgeable, Mallak says.

"There's too much to know"
It's true, there's a lot of content to study and learn. So don't cram, Bitonte says. Enroll in a pre-exam course that teaches you the ins and outs of the C of Q.

How you're practising:

The wording of these questions is confusing
The more you practise writing tests, the more familiar you'll become with how questions are written and structured.

There's not enough time
You get three hours to complete the exam. When you're completing practice exams, imitate the testing environment and time yourself.

When you're writing the exam Bitonte suggests answering all the questions you know first and skipping the ones you don't.

Remember, all you need to pass is 70 per cent so if you don't know the answer, guess.

But monitor how much time you spend on each question.

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SPORTS 4

Enigmatic Bargnani's season in jeopardy

NBA. Elbow injury could force Raptors to sideline big man for the rest of the campaign

The worst season of Andrea Bargnani's NBA career keeps getting worse.

The enigmatic Raptors big man is hurt again, and did not travel with the team for its game in Boston on Wednesday night amid concerns his season could very well be over.

While waiting for doctors to fully assess his re-injured right elbow, there are concerns within the team's hierarchy that it could be an injury serious enough that some thought will be given to having Bargnani take the rest of the season off.

Coach Dwane Casey couldn't shed any light on the prognosis — "all the doctors have to get together and come to a decision on what's going on. I'm in the dark a little bit as far as that decision goes," he said Tuesday — and said Gay would be a game-time decision after the team holds its shootaround in Boston on Wednesday morning.

"Even if we were in a playoff race, if they were not healthy, you could not rush a guy back and risk further injuries to them," said Casey. "That's the way we look at that."

Bargnani has suffered through a horrid season, with his health and his play.

He originally tore an elbow ligament and hurt his wrist in a game in Portland in early December and missed 26 games. He came back and played in 14 games before leaving a game in Los Angeles last Friday early in the first quarter of an eventual overtime loss to the Lakers.

He had an MRI in Toronto on Monday and team physicians were looking at the results and consulting with other doctors before the team issued any statement on his availability.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sagging PPG

Andrea Bargnani is averaging just 12.7 points per game — his lowest output in five seasons — and shooting just 40 per cent from the field and 31 per cent from three-point range.

NHL

Ticket prices for MLSE's ACC teams going up

The cost of being a winter sports fan of Toronto teams is going up.

Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment will hike ticket prices for the Raptors and Maple Leafs by about 2.5 per cent across the board starting for the 2013-14 seasons.

Calling it a "cost of living" increase, MLSE president and chief operating officer Tom Anselmi said the cost hike reflects increased costs to the monolithic sports organization.

"Our costs have gone up dramatically," he said in a telephone interview. "Players salaries, operating costs, league costs ... in the case of the Raptors, our pricing has gone backwards in the last few years." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fuming Leafs win the battle but lose the war

Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Dion Phaneuf drops the gloves with Winnipeg Jets forward Andrew Ladd in Winnipeg on Tuesday. Phil Kessel scored both Leafs goals in a 5-2 loss. TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA. D12 shows magic touch in return to Orlando

Dwight Howard scored a season-high 39 points, had 16 rebounds and was sent to the free throw line 39 times by his former team as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Orlando Magic 106-97 on Tuesday night.

The victory came in Howard's first return to Orlando since his drama-filled off-season trade to the Lakers. He endured a chorus of boos throughout, and tied his own NBA record for free throw attempts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dwight Howard
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Tennis

Raonic advances to fourth round

Thornhill's Milos Raonic made the most of a late singles start at the BNP Paribas Open, upsetting 12th seed Marin Cilic 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 Tuesday to move into the fourth round.

Raonic, seeded 17th, was playing his first singles match of the tournament after a first-round bye and a walkover in the second round. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arrested. AHL player charged with trespassing

A Canadian hockey player ended up in a San Antonio jail earlier this week after allegedly breaking into a home while "heavily intoxicated" and making himself comfortable.

Hamilton's Scott Timmins, a forward with the AHL's San Antonio Rampage, was arrested Monday morning and charged with criminal trespassing.

According to San Antonio police, a 43-year-old woman awoke in her home to find Timmins sitting on her couch. The police report said Timmins, 23, was heavily intoxicated, smelled of alcohol and was unable to maintain his balance.

Police say the woman asked, "Who are you?" and Timmins allegedly replied "Who are you?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TFC says it's close to adding talent

MLS. Team officials in Argentina, reportedly scouting player on Newell's Old Boys

Toronto FC is close to signing a player from South America.

President Kevin Payne says assistant coach Fran O'Leary and chief scout Pat Onstad are both currently in Argentina.

"We're pretty close to announcing a new signing. I hope it will happen in the next day or two," Payne told reporters after practice Tuesday. "And there's a couple of other players we're looking at as well that we think will really help us.

"This process will continue almost the whole season, but certainly in the first half of the season we're going to be spending a lot of time trying to figure out how to add talent to our team."

Onstad has already made several trips to Argentina to scout talent, with a striker believed to be on top of his shopping list.

With designated player Danny Koevermans still recovering from knee surgery, Toronto is thin up top, although Welsh striker Robert Earnshaw, another new signing, has shown an eye for goals with two strikes in as many games.

Payne says the South American recruit — 22-year-old Maximiliano Urruti of Newell's Old Boys is reportedly a TFC target — could be a designated player.

"Possibly. We're trying to figure out if there's a way for us to do him now and not necessarily make him a DP or possibly have the option to decide later in the year whether he's a DP.

"But he would be DP level. Whether he's actually a DP or not, we maybe have some flexibility there." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto FC's Robert Earnshaw, left, and president Kevin Payne after Saturday's win over Sporting Kansas City. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Salary hit

Only a portion of a designated player's pay counts against the team's salary. In 2013, for a designated player over the age of 23, that will be $368,750 US.

Champions League

Messi leads Barcelona to historic comeback

Lionel Messi scored a brilliant brace to help Barcelona to a 4-0 victory over AC Milan and complete a historic comeback to reach the quarter-finals of the Champions League on Tuesday.

Barcelona won 4-2 on aggregate after a spectacular second leg in the last 16, entering the record books as the first team to rescue a 2-0 first-leg loss without having scored an away goal.

Both of Messi's goals were scored in the first half. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lionel Messi celebrates scoring one of his two goals Tuesday. DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

Ryan Fitzpatrick is down and out as the quarterback of the Buffalo Bills after the team released him Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES FILE

NFL. Bills cut ties with quarterback Fitzpatrick

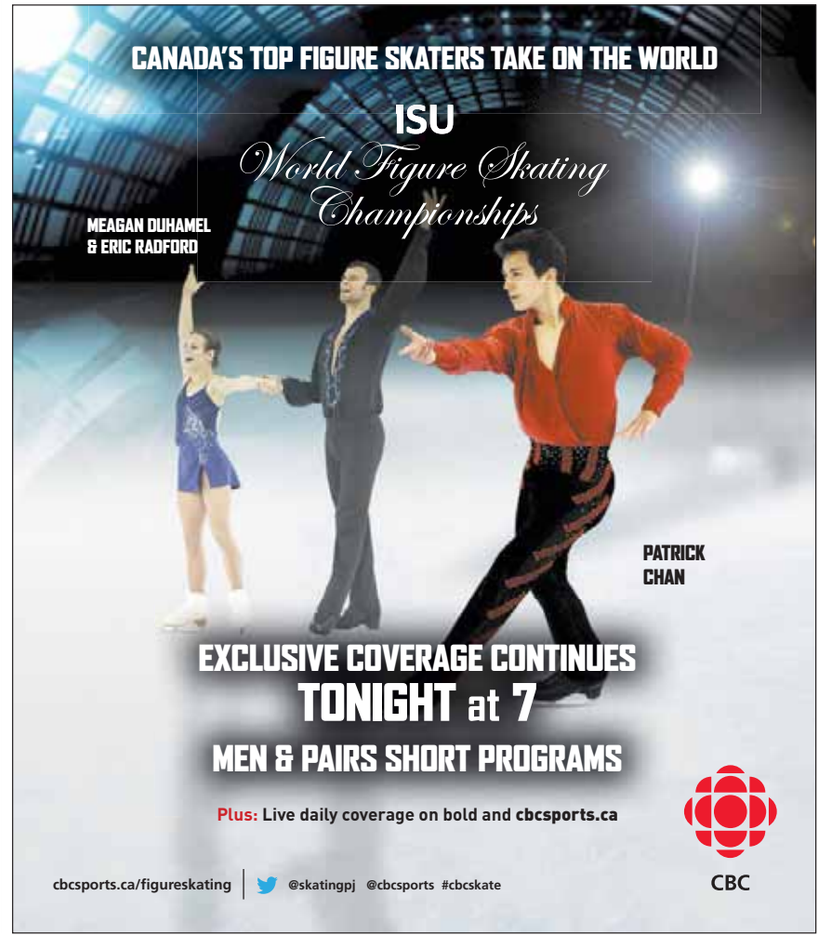
New coach Doug Marrone and the Buffalo Bills are moving on without Ryan Fitzpatrick by releasing the quarterback after two-plus inconsistent seasons as starter.

The team announced the move Tuesday, shortly after the NFL's free agency period opened, and a day before Fitzpatrick was due a $3-million bonus.

"We kept every possible option open right down to the wire, when we had to make a decision on whether to keep Ryan," general manager Buddy Nix said. "In the end, we had to do what we feel is best for our football team. And it was a difficult decision."

Fitzpatrick's up-and-down performance and his expensive contract were factors in his release. He went 20-33 as a starter over four seasons in Buffalo. And he was in the midst of a six-year, $59-million contract extension signed in October 2011.

That was regarded as too expensive for a player who wasn't guaranteed to return as starter this season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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What a difference a few decades make

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

2013 Toyota RAV4

- **Type.** Four-door, front/all-wheel-drive compact wagon
- **Engine (hp)**: 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (176)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination)** $25,400

Design

Physically, it now displays all sorts of swoops and curves that replace a boxier design. In back, the side hinged cargo door with attached spare tire has been replaced by a more practical liftgate. The full-size spare (a rarity in this class) is now discretely located beneath the cargo floor. There's also a handy spot to hide small valuables next to the spare.

The addition of a liftgate makes the 2013 model a more practical one than the previous year's model.

Engine

Returning for 2013 is the one and only 2.5-litre four-cylinder that delivers 176 horsepower and 172 pound-feet of torque, which is actually enough for a vehicle that weighs in at about 1,550 kilograms. Although the engine returns basically unchanged, there's a new six-speed automatic transmission that replaces the previous four-speed unit.

Fuel economy

The new fifth and sixth overdrive gearing — plus a more efficient torque converter — is largely responsible for the drop in fuel consumption to 8.7 l/100 km in the city and 6.4 on the highway (for front-wheel-drive models), which is down from 9.5/6.9. All-wheel-drive versions achieve 9.1/6.8, which is an improvement from 9.7/7.2.

Review. Starting a whole new class of vehicles is one thing. Being expected to continually redefine that class is something else altogether. No pressure

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

What a difference a couple of decades can make.

The original Toyota RAV4 that helped usher in the compact-utility segment back in 1996 was a major design and marketing breakthrough. Vehicles such as the Honda CR-V, Ford Escape and others eventually followed, with all offering an economical and affordable way to deal with just about any type of inclemency that Ma Nature might have tossed our way. The latest RAV4 is no less capable, but over the years has evolved into an elegant, sophisticated and highly detailed wagon.

Most of the cabin has been completely restyled and is awash with "soft-touch" materials and silver trim bits, which is pretty standard for this class now. If you're planning to add the third-row seat option to your RAV4, be advised that Toyota has discontinued that feature due to an apparent lack of interest. The AWD option is updated with Auto, Lock and Sport modes to suit specific traction and driving situations. Lock keeps half the power going to the back wheels as long as you're driving slower than 40 km/h. Sport mode allows wider transfer of torque between the front and rear wheels (as much as half to the rear) than the Auto mode.

Not much to complain about here

Second Gear.
2009 to 2013
Subaru Forester

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

The 2009 to 2013 generation of Subaru's Forester enjoyed a healthy sales life and a loyal following of owners. A compact crossover SUV with an eye for safety, confidence and sensibility, all models got five seats, all wheel drive (AWD) and more than 1,900 litres of cargo space. Available feature content included navigation, Bluetooth, heated leather seats, xenon lights and more.

The 2009 to 2013 generation of Subaru's Forester sold well and had a loyal following of purchasers.

SUBMITTED

Common Issues

Check for proper operation of the air conditioning system. Some owners have reported issues with the AC, possibly accompanied by excessive noise when the system is turned on.

Be sure to determine where the timing belt lies within its service life on the Forester you're considering. If a replacement is due, it could cost up to $1,000. If you neglect said replacement, it could cost you an engine.

Feel for any tugging or pulling through the steering wheel while on a flat road. If any is present, the model you're considering may need an alignment.

Signs of turbocharger trouble on a Forester XT may include smoke from the exhaust at startup or after a drive. Be sure the turbocharged Forester you're considering hasn't been pre-warmed ahead of your test drive to conceal a smoke issue. Note that models treated to regular oil changes should have no turbocharger issues. Opt for a non-turbo model if you're concerned. Finally, front seats, hatchback prop struts and paint-on-the-rocker panels just behind the front wheels should be scrutinized for signs of wear.

Engine

Forester came with one of two engines. Standard was a proven 2.5 litre BOXER four-cylinder engine making 170 horsepower. Available in the 2.5XT model was a turbocharged version, which made 225 horsepower. Manual or automatic transmissions were available.

What owners like

Owners tended to comment positively on fuel mileage, performance from the standard engine with manual gearbox, the slippery-weather assurance of the AWD system and laid-back, easy-to-drive character.

What owners dislike

Common complaints centre around bland looks, poor performance from models with the automatic transmission and a clumsy cupholder design.

Verdict

Major issues are largely non-existent here and Forester is enjoying a reputation for reliable long-term performance. Shop confidently if you find a good deal on a nicely-maintained Forester that fits your needs and budget.

The rush of speed isn't all it's revved up to be

The speedometer on the Toyota Yaris says the tiny car can go 140 miles per hour.

In reality, the bulbous subcompact's 106-horsepower engine and automatic transmission can't push it any faster than 109.

So why do the Yaris — and most other cars sold in the U.S. — have speedometers that show top speeds they can't possibly reach? The answer has deep roots in an American culture that loves the rush of driving fast. The automakers' marketing departments are happy to give people the illusion that their family car can travel at speeds rivalling a NASCAR racer. And companies often use one speedometer type in various models across the world, saving them money.

But critics say the ever-higher numbers are misleading. Some warn they create a safety concern, daring drivers to push past freeway speed limits that are 65 to 75 m.p.h. in most states.

"You reach a point where it becomes ridiculous," says Larry Dominique, a former Nissan product chief who now is executive vice-president of the TrueCar.com auto pricing website. "Eighty per cent plus of the cars on the road are not designed for and will not go over 110 m.p.h."

Last year, speedometer top speeds for new versions of the mainstream Ford Fusion and Chevrolet Malibu were increased from 120 or 140 m.p.h. to 160, which approaches speeds on some NASCAR tracks.

Vroooooom!

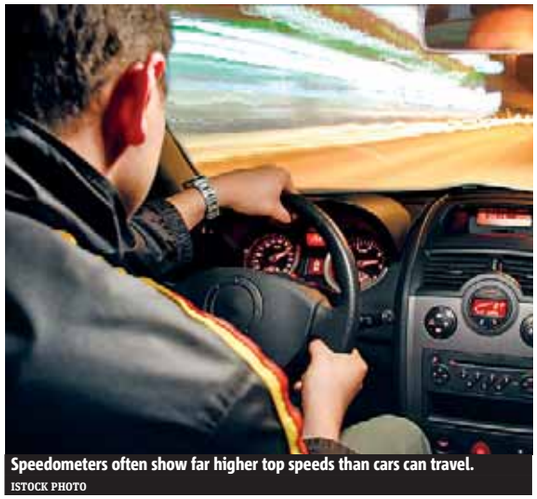
"People really want to see higher numbers. It's indicative of a more powerful engine. There's a marketing pitch to it."

Fawaz Baltaji, business development manager for Yazaki North America.
Yazaki is a large supplier of speedometers for auto companies.

The speedometer on the Honda Accord already topped out at 160. All are midsize family haulers, the most popular segment of the U.S. auto market, and like most new cars, have top speeds that seldom exceed 120 m.p.h. The Yaris got its 140 m.p.h. speedometer in a redesign for the 2012 model year, giving it the same top reading as the original 1953 Chevrolet Corvette sports car.

Even the new Nissan Sentra compact has a 160 m.p.h. speedometer. There are several explanations for the speedometers. When people are comparison shopping, cars with higher speedometer readings appear to be sportier and buyers favour them even though they have no intention of driving over 100. "People really want to see higher numbers," said Fawaz Baltaji, a business development manager for Yazaki North America, a large supplier of speedometers for auto companies. "It is indicative of a more powerful engine. There's a marketing pitch to it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Speedometers often show far higher top speeds than cars can travel.
ISTOCK PHOTO

"I WANT DEALS SO BIG THEY NEED THEIR OWN AREA CODE."

TOYOTA RED TAG DAYS

2013 RAV4 FWD LE

ALL-IN LEASE

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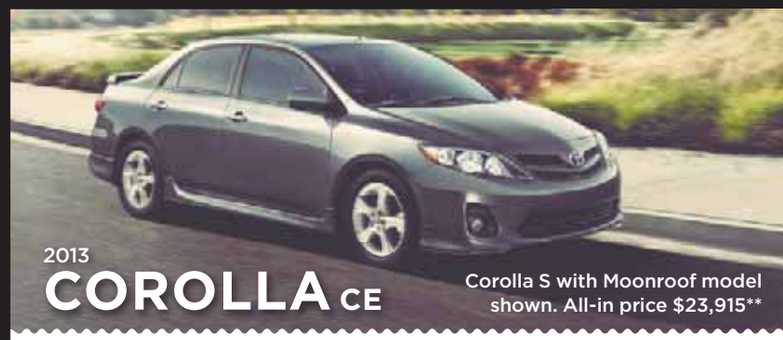
ALL-IN PRICE $25,615* Includes freight and fees. HST extra.



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TOYOTA

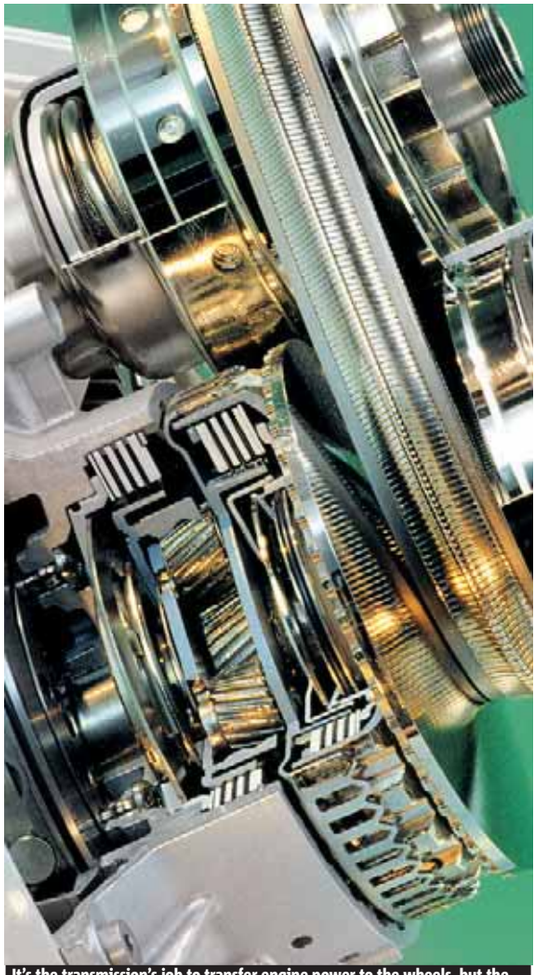
Limited time lease offers available from Toyota Financial Services on approved credit. **All-in price of a new 2013 RAV4 AWD Limited (Model DFREVTA)/2013 Corolla S (Model BU44EMB)/2013 Venza V6 AWD Touring Package (Model BK3BBTC) is $33,525/$23,915/$40,125. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. *All-in price of a new 2013 RAV4 FWD LE (Model ZFREVTA)/2013 Corolla CE Manual (Model BU42EMA)/2013 Venza FWD (Model ZA3BBTA) is $25,615/$17,005/$30,515. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. ‡4.5%/0.9%/2.9% lease APR on a new 2013 RAV4 FWD LE (Model ZFREVTA)/2013 Corolla CE Manual (Model BU42EMA)/2013 Venza FWD (Model ZA3BBTA) for 60/60/60 months, equals a monthly payment of $268/$181/$344 with a $2,250/$0/$1,100 down payment or trade equivalent, when you apply the $0/$750/$1,000 Customer Incentive. First monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $18,335/$10,880/$21,733. All-in lease includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Based on a maximum of 100,000/100,000/100,000KM. Additional KM charge of $0.10/$0.07/$0.15 for excess kilometres, if applicable. ◊$750/$1000 Customer Incentive on a new 2013 Corolla CE Manual/2013 Venza FWD is valid on Toyota retail delivery (excluding fleet sales) when leased, financed or purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Customer Incentives include tax and will be applied after taxes have been charged on the full amount of the negotiated price. Vehicles receiving Customer Incentives must be purchased, registered and delivered between March 1 and April 1, 2013. Offers are valid between March 1 and April 1, 2013, and are subject to change without notice. All rights are reserved. Dealer may sell for less. Please see your participating Ontario Toyota dealer for full details.

Shifty characters and control freaks

Autoknow. So, how do you like being told that you're in the way of maximum fuel economy and performance?

MARK ATKINSON
wheelbasemedia.com

Electronics play a huge role as they control the modern transmission. In the case of the Nissan GT-R, the driver is able to launch the car from a stop with precision and clockwork consistency. Try that with a stick shift. ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE MEDIA



It's the transmission's job to transfer engine power to the wheels, but the trouble with that is that engine speed and wheel speed are seldom the same. The transmission is the variable coupling between the two.

If you think a vehicle does better when you give the instructions, then you're not going to like this story. Nope. Not one bit.

However, giving in and letting your car shift itself might be easier if you're told that you'll get better fuel economy and better performance, which have often been considered direct opposites.

It used to be that there were two types of transmissions: manual and automatic. The reasons for selecting each were pretty obvious: the manual gearbox was preferred by driving enthusiasts and those looking to save money (lower purchase price) and fuel, while automatics were for those with longer commutes and more in-town driving, or those who simply preferred not to shift for themselves.

In the last decade, however, transmissions have become rather complicated. Now there are a half dozen ways to create a transmission that shifts itself, and manual transmissions — at least in North America — are now found only in the disparate domains of economy cars, and, perhaps weirdly, at the other end of the gene pool in sports cars.

Automakers are diving head-first into a whole raft of technologies including multi-gear automatics, continuously variable transmissions (CVTs), "clutchless" manual transmissions and more. And increasingly, they all try to do the same thing, namely make you appear to be a more sporting driver, using mostly electronic tricks ranging from paddle shifters to rev-matched downshifts.

But how can you tell your Shiftronic from your Tiptronic, and what transmission suits you best?

Starting at its most basic, the automatic transmission still works the same as the one in your grandfather's Buick. To make them more efficient, traditional automatics are really piling on the gears. The base Ram 1500 pickup uses an eight-speed automatic transmission. German transmission maker ZF claims that such a transmission can provide up to 15 per cent better economy than a five-speed automatic.

The more gears you have, the easier it is for the engine to stay in the heart of its rev range, which means quicker acceleration and response to your right foot. Adding gears raises weight and adds complexity, however, which still makes them relatively rare.

Another self-shifting option is known variously as clutchless manuals, sequential gearboxes or dual-clutch gearboxes. The names are a bit deceiving because the transmissions indeed have clutches, but the transmission does all the shifting work for you. Driver input and inefficiencies have been dialed out of the equation.

They're generally designed to replicate the lightning-fast shifting of a racing car without needing a clutch pedal at all. The whole transmission is controlled electronically, from the clutch slipping perfectly from rest, to the gear selection itself. Good yes, but it dials out the "fun" of rowing through the gears and working the clutch pedal by yourself. But clutchless manuals suffer from one key issue. The clutches eventually need replacing, which is no cheap fix.

Instead of increasing the number of gears, other manufacturers are reducing them to zero. Or more accurately, an infinite number of shifts.

Those who have driven snowmobiles or scooters have encountered the technology. Continually variable transmissions are steadily becoming more popular in automobiles. Rather than having a set number of gear ratios, a CVT generally uses a belt or chain run between two pulleys to transfer power to the wheels. The benefits are that the two pulleys can change diameter, which allows the engine to run in its most effective rev range, all the time, meaning improved acceleration and fuel economy.

Nissan is the most fervent, offering CVTs in nearly everything in its line-up. Nissan believes the CVT "has very good potential as a leading technology for raising the fuel efficiency of internal-combustion engine systems."

You'll also find CVTs in products from Dodge, Jeep, Mitsubishi and even Subaru, who says its CVT in the current Legacy and Outback cuts the zero-to-60-m.p.h. (96 km/h) time by 25 per cent compared to a manual transmission. The CVT is standard issue on most serious gas-electric hybrids, too, such as the Toyota Prius.

However, making CVTs "feel" like regular automatics is where the challenge comes in. Most times, the engine drones loudly because it doesn't need to go up and down the rev range, and acceleration can feel sluggish.

Ultimately, the type of transmission you prefer has less to do with design and everything to do with programming. Why?

Virtually every vehicle sold today uses electronic throttle controls and engine management, which means a car's behaviours are sorted on a computer before being tried out on a real product.

That's why some CVTs are excellent to drive, while other automatics are simply painful.

All praise the programmer.

The Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution MR uses a manual transmission with two clutches that pre-select the next gear change.

Ford

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Parts department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

A bigger wheel

Remember when you or your children were power sliding around the driveway on one of Mattel's Big Wheels trikes? High Roller USA will sell you an adult-sized version that's built to accommodate, shall we say, the more developed rider. The extra-wide, 26-inch-tall (66-centimetre) pneumatic front tire is mounted to an alloy wheel and is complemented by two 14-inch-tall (35-centimetre) molded plastic rear wheels to create that spinout effect when you crank the handle bars. highrollerusa.com.

Paper Zonda

If Italian supercars like the Pagani Zonda are your weakness, but you're a few bucks short of the US $500,000 needed to acquire the real thing, Visual Spicer has just the perfect build-it-yourself project to keep you occupied. All you need is a color paper printer plus the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader software loaded onto your computer and you'll have the ability to create a very credible scale replica made of paper. Just pay your US $2 (or $5 for all three-color versions) and get busy. Place your order at visualspicer.com.

Rack up the rubber

The tidier alternative to leaving your extra set of tires and/or wheels piled up in the garage is to store them overhead and out of the way using the Michelin Heavy Duty Tire Rack from Hyloft/Diamond Storage Concepts. To accommodate tire widths, this steel assembly's telescoping horizontal support bars can be adjusted 34 to 60 inches (86 to 152 cm.) while supporting up to 400 pounds/181 kg. (with proper wall mounting, of course). The three telescoping bars can be relocated in the side frames to accommodate tires. Check your local auto parts supply store for the Michelin rack or order one for $160 US from hyloft.com.

Protecting plate

Whether your jurisdiction requires a front licence plate, anyone concerned about keeping their vehicle ding and scratch-free should consider installing a flexy-frame licence plate holder. The patented one-inch-thick LD model and more robust three-centimetre-thick HD version act like bumper guards since they're are made of a soft rubber compound. They are claimed to help reduce or prevent expensive bumper damage caused by a low-speed impact, regardless if you hit someone or someone hits you. The LD sells for $20 US and the HD is priced at $35. Pick one up at flexyframe.com.

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†Coverage begins from the original new retail sale date and covers 7-years/140,000-kilometres, whichever comes first. ‡0.9% APR only for well qualified buyers; not all buyers will qualify. Amount of down payment and other factors may affect qualification. 0.9% APR available on all models and all qualifying model years (the 5 model years immediately preceding the date of this advertisement, or newer) for up to 24-month terms. Based on a representative example of $15,000 financed at 0.9% over 24 months equals monthly payments of $630.88 with $0 down payment, cost of borrowing is $141.03 with a total obligation of $15,141.03. Licence, insurance, taxes, down payment, and, where applicable, PPSA and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at time of purchase. Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offer subject to change without notice. Visit your participating dealer for complete details.

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2013 CANADIAN CAR OF THE YEAR

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HONDA

*Bi-weekly lease only available on 2013 Honda Fit // 2013 Honda Civic // 2013 Honda Accord // 2013 Honda CR-V models on 48 and 60-month terms only. Ω Limited time lease offers on any new 2013 Honda Fit DX (Model GE8G2DEX) // 2013 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Honda Accord LX Sedan (Model CR2E3DE) // 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) models available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative bi-weekly lease example: based on a 2013 Honda Fit DX (Model GE8G2DEX) // 2013 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Honda Accord LX Sedan (Model CR2E3DE) // 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) on a 48 month term with 104 bi-weekly payments at 2.99% // 2.99% // 3.99% // 2.99% lease APR and $100 // $0 // $100 // $100 customer incentive deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes (customer incentive can be combined with subvented rates of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program). The bi-weekly payment is $77 // $82 // $135 // $139 [includes $1,495 // $1,495 // $1,640 // $1,640 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100 except Fit DX and Civic DX), and OMVIC fee ($5)] with $1,989 // $1,529 // $2,042 // $2,501 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first bi-weekly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $9,997.08 // $10,057.10 // $16,081.45 // $16,956.77. 96,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. For all offers: license, insurance, PPSA, and other taxes (including HST) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. ◆◆Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2012. ‡Does not replace the driver's responsibility to exercise due care while driving. ΔText message and e-mail functions are only compatible with certain devices.

It's a pricey ride, even used, so don't cheap out on peace of mind

Second Gear.
2002 to 2012
Mercedes-Benz SL

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

Few machines embody world-class comfort, premium sophistication and advanced performance quite like the Mercedes Benz SL. A two-seat convertible designed for comfortable, high-speed, top-optional travels, it was available in its last full generation from 2002 to 2012.

Feature content for this luxo-rocket included a fully motorized power roof, navigation, heated leather seats with the 'airscarf' neck-warmer system, Bluetooth, premium audio by Harman Kardon, driver-selectable suspension and plenty more.

HANDOUT

Common Issues

Complaints tended to deal with noises, like squeaks and rattles, as the car ages. System malfunctions, which are typically referenced by a message in the instrument cluster, are also somewhat well documented. Be sure none of these messages are present on the model you're test-driving. Listen for a metallic "clanging" sound from the rear of the vehicle as it comes to rest, or while it's resting shortly after being stopped. Numerous owners have reported issues with baffles breaking off inside the fuel tank and floating noisily around. It's a pricey repair.

Engine

Look for V8 power on most models, with power ranging from 302 to just under 500 horses. Automatic transmissions and rear-wheel drive were fitted to all models.

What owners like

Head-tuning factor, on-road presence and performance were the SL's most highly-rated assets, according to many owners. Plenty of on-board storage and all-around comfort were also commented upon positively. This is a two-seater that's road-trip ready.

What owners dislike

Fuel consumption and maintenance costs were among the most common complaints of the SL.

Verdict

The SL is loved for many things, but low maintenance costs aren't among them. Take any SL you're considering strongly to a Mercedes mechanic for a comprehensive inspection. You're spending big bucks on this car — so don't cheap out on the inspection.

Avoid fraud when buying a used car

As with any major purchase, you need to do your due diligence when buying a used car. Here are some important tips:

• Always question a deal that seems too good to be true.

• Be wary of dealing with a private seller who has numerous cars listed at the same time. They could be a curbsider — an unlicensed individual, dealer or retailer who buys up vehicles and instead of registering them under their own name, posts the same vehicles for sale with a mark-up. The curbsider might hide major issues or turn back the odometer in order to make a quick, profitable sale.

• Don't do business with a seller who won't meet face-to-face. Be on your guard if they'll only talk with you by phone or email.

• Purchase a CarProof vehicle history report for a detailed Canadian and U.S. history of the vehicle along with registration details and lien information. The report will also contain branding and odometer details and tell you if the vehicle is reported as stolen.

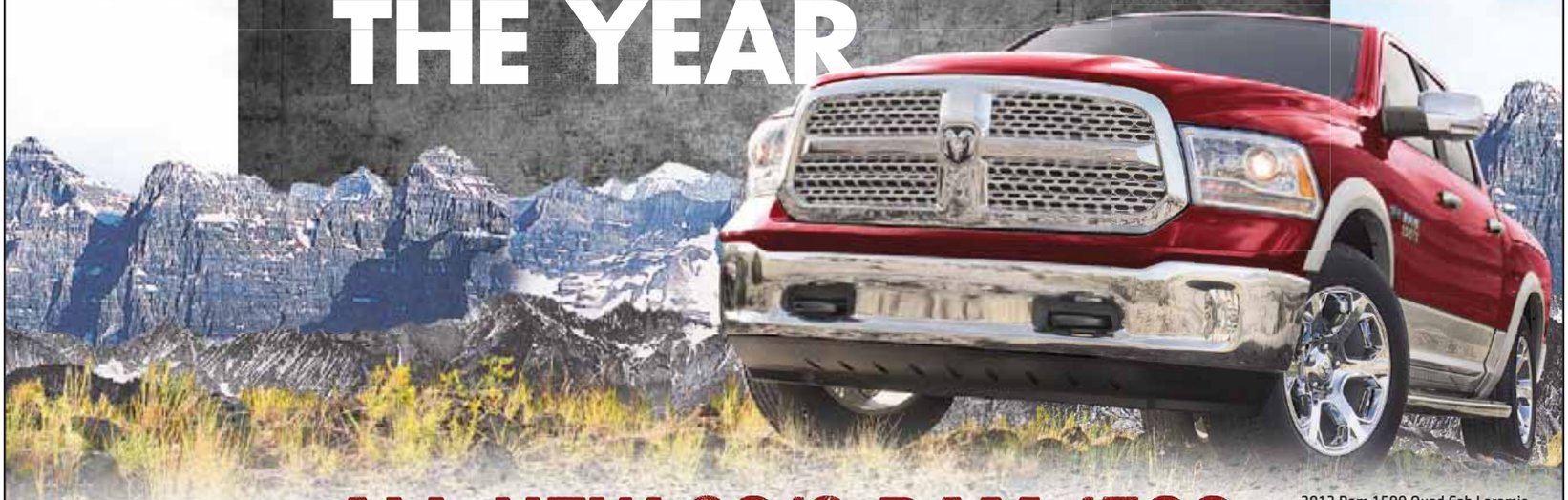
• Ask the seller for proof of identity and check that the seller's name and address matches up with the information on the actual vehicle registration form. Verify the vehicle identification number (VIN), the car's details and the colour of the car with the registration form, insurance slips and with the CarProof report.

• Take the vehicle for a pre-purchase inspection to a place of your choosing. If the seller insists on using one specific facility, this could be a red flag that something is wrong.

NEWS CANADA

2013 NORTH AMERICAN TRUCK OF THE YEAR

NORTH AMERICAN TRUCK / UTILITY OF THE YEAR



2013 Ram 1500 Quad Cab Laramie 4x4 with optional equipment shown.§

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÷Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from $0 to $1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from $0 to $1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.

GUTS·GLORY RAM

RamTruck.ca/Offers

Wise customers read the fine print: •, *, †, », § 2013 Ram offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after March 1, 2013. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,595), air tax (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. •$24,995 Purchase Price applies to the new 2013 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (23A+AGR) only and includes $9,250 Consumer Cash Discount and $1,500 Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select 2013 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. †4.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on the new 2013 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (23A+AGR) model to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. See your retailer for complete details. Example: 2013 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (23A+AGR) with a Purchase Price of $24,995 (including Consumer Cash Discount and $1,500 Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash) financed at 4.49% over 96 months with $0 down payment, equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $143 with a cost of borrowing of $4,804 and a total obligation of $29,798.51. »$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash is available to qualified customers on the retail purchase/lease of any 2012/2013 Ram 2500/3500 models (excluding Cab & Chassis models) and 2013 Ram 1500 (excluding Reg Cab models) and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram pickup truck or any other manufacturer's pickup truck. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before March 1, 2013. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. §2013 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Laramie 4x4 with optional equipment shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: $38,755. ≠Based on *Automotive News* classification and 2013 Ram 1500 3.6 L V6 4x2 and 8-speed transmission. 11.4 L/100 km (25 MPG) City and 7.8 L/100 km (36 MPG) Highway. Based on 2013 EnerGuide fuel consumption guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. Ask your retailer for complete EnerGuide information. ΩBased on 2012 *Automotive News* full-size pickup segmentation and competitive information. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

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Bring it on my Facebook friend

Marketing. Ford loves and leverages the social media

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

By early 2008, the Ford Motor Company knew something had to be done about social media.

I have no idea how many options the automaker's brain trust considered. Study social media some more? Jump in headfirst? Hide? Run? Attempt to destroy by clubbing with analog tape recorders?

But Ford ultimately did a very enlightened thing. It created a position called Global Head of Social Media and hired a guy named Scott Monty to fill it.

While Ford did dabble in social media marketing, it wanted its new hire to figure out an over arching social media strategy. Well, he and his team have done that and more. When it comes to using social media, Ford is the most progressive automaker out there, with many groundbreaking campaigns and with dedicated teams interacting with people on Facebook and Twitter.

Monty was recently named one of Forbes Magazine's Top Ten Social Media Influencers.

We had a chance last week to chew the social media fat with Monty during his trip to the city to speak at an automotive conference. We discussed lots, but here are three Ford social media initiatives and why Monty believes they were ultimately successful.

Scott Monty was named one of Forbes' Top Ten Social Media Influencers. HANDOUT

People like us

For the Fiesta Movement, 100 Fiesta vehicles were loaned out to social-media savvy "agents" before the vehicle was even officially introduced. Their videos and blogs and stories went viral.

"The fundamental lesson of Fiesta Movement was let go of your fear, turn it over to your customers and let them tell your story," said Monty.

Monty added that for this to work, Ford needed a great product and Fiesta was that. But also working in the Movement's favour was how people particularly value the opinions of people like themselves.

We've come to distrust big business and government in a way we didn't before, noted Monty. So we're looking more than ever for "third party" validation. We can get that from journalists, academics and analysts and advocates, etc., but "people like us" is the best source.

Turbocharing awareness

The all-new 2011 Ford Explorer was not revealed at an auto show. It was revealed on Facebook.

"We always have advertising that's running alongside PR, that's running alongside social media," said Monty. "But when you get the three pointing in the same direction and all coordinated in the timing, then the media dollars you spend don't have to work as hard. The level of awareness is already up."

Puppets and product features

To showcase the all-new 2012 Ford Focus we were introduced to Doug the Orange Puppet Spokesperson and his handler, John. In their short videos, found on YouTube and elsewhere, the narrative is more about Doug and John not jiving with their corporate colleagues than a sales pitch.

"It's completely un-corporate," said Monty. Doug the Puppet is known for having an eye for the ladies. John struggles with keeping Doug on his spokesperson task. It's a character-driven series that just happens to have a Ford Focus as the backdrop.

"We have product placement in our own entertainment series," said Monty.

According to Monty, a social media initiative doesn't necessarily have to be about entertainment, but it does need to provide something of value to a consumer.

"We already don't have their trust, now we're scrambling for their attention. How do you get their attention? Not by serving them another ad."

The 2011 Ford Explorer was revealed on Facebook, not at an auto show. HANDOUT

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*Limited time finance purchase offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit. MSRP of $16,385/$26,600 for a new and unregistered 2013 Jetta 2.0L / 2013 Tiguan 2.0T base model with 5/6-speed manual transmission, including $1,395/$1,610 freight and PDI, financed at 2.4%/2.9% APR for 84/72 months equals 182/156 bi-weekly payments of $97.89/$185.18. $0 down payment. Cost of borrowing is $1,431.20/$2,413.33 for a total obligation of $17,816.20/$29,013.33. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. Models shown: 2013 Jetta 2.5L Highline, $24,590 / Tiguan 2.0T Highline R-Line, $41,125. Models shown for illustration purposes only. Models may not be exactly as shown. Certain conditions apply. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers end April 30, 2013 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Das Auto & Design", "Autobahn for All", "Jetta" and "Tiguan" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2013 Volkswagen Canada.

Even Mercedes-Benz's AMG performance division uses anti-lock brakes. COURTESY MERCEDES-BENZ

Anti-lock brakes let you steer while stopping

Driving Force. Knowing how your ABS works can save you in an emergency

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Anti-lock braking system, or ABS, are among the most effective safety features on your car. But it's important to know how they work, so you can make the most of them when they're needed.

"The main purpose for ABS is to make sure the driver is capable of steering the vehicle in an emergency braking situation," says Sylvain Gilbert, manager of technical services for Mercedes-Benz Canada. "If you have your foot on the brakes hard and the front wheels lock, you can do whatever you want and the car won't turn. ABS keeps the brakes from locking."

Brakes use heavy metal rotors (also called discs) that are located behind the wheels and turn with them. When you press the brake pedal, metallic pads squeeze against the rotors, and the resulting friction stops the car. ABS doesn't activate during regular braking, because the tires grip the pavement and you stay in control.

But on a slippery surface, the car can slide like a toboggan. In the past, when cars didn't have ABS, drivers were trained to "pump" the brakes. This let the tires turn slightly, which gave them a chance to reestablish their grip before the driver braked again.

ABS does the same thing, but much faster than you possibly could — as much as several times a second. You don't necessarily stop any faster, and in some cases it may even take a bit longer to stop, but you'll be able to steer your vehicle. That could mean the difference between going around an object or hitting it, or getting around a corner instead of sliding into the intersection.

The sensors, computers and solenoids that ABS uses are also the basis of several other safety systems, including electronic stability control, which brakes specific wheels if your car is sliding sideways, and hill hold, which keeps them on for a few seconds so you don't roll back on an incline while going from brake to throttle.

Brake pedals used to vibrate harshly when ABS came on, but new systems are far quieter. "The system is under pressure and the pedal would vibrate because the solenoid was opening and closing and pumping that pressure," Gilbert says. You may feel the brake pedal sink slightly, but don't take your foot off it. Instead, press firmly and let the ABS do its job.

More on ABS

- ABS and electronic stability control are mandatory on all new cars sold in Canada, starting with the 2012 model year.
- The first all-electronic, four-wheel, multi-channel ABS system, the basic type used today, was invented by Bosch and first offered as an option on the 1978 Mercedes-Benz S-Class, and shortly afterwards, on the BMW 7 Series.
- ABS can only do so much. Any time the road is slippery, slow down, and start breaking sooner.

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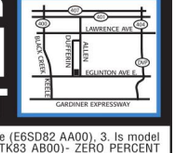

Disclosure:Demo & new car specials are all cash prices plus HST. 1. Is model code (D4SK82 AA00), 2. Is model code (E6SD82 AA00), 3. Is model code(D4SK82 AC00), 4. Is model code (G4SY82 AB00), 5. Is model code (E6TD82MR00), 6. Is model code (NXTK83 AB00)- ZERO PERCENT FINANCING IS AVAILABLE FOR 72 MONTHS-COST OF BORROWING IS $0-PAYMENT WITH ZERO DOWN IS $458.27. New car special of the week is model code (D4SS82 AC00). TAXES NOT INCLUDED. OFFERS AVAILABLE WHILE QUANTITIES LAST, VISIT WWW.YORKDALEDUFFERINMAZDA.CA. FOR MORE DETAILS OR CALL 416-789-4521.

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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Upheavals in your personal life may make you feel vulnerable but there is no need to fear change. The new always replaces the old and what happens next will confirm that better days are on their way.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
This has the potential to be a really great time for you but it will only happen if you have a clear idea of what it is you want to happen. You can change you life in any way you wish.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Don't tie yourself down today. As a Gemini, you need to be free to pursue your interests in your own way and at your own speed. Family and friends may not agree but it's not about them, it's about you.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You have some big ideas in your mind, but are you going to do anything with them? Remember: If you can think it you can do it, although you don't have to do it all at once.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The world may be in chaos but everything in your life is exactly how it should be. Loved ones need you to be a rock they can cling to in stormy times, so stand tall and stay strong for them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
All things exciting and unusual will attract you today. You just want to have fun. It's not often you are this adventurous but you've had your full of leading a predictable life — for the moment at least.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You need to join forces with others to accomplish what you can't do on your own. You may not want to share the glory but if you do it all by yourself, there may be no glory to share.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something you think you depend on will fall by the wayside today, but don't worry. In a matter of days you will realize it has made things easier for you. It was holding you back, not holding you up.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
What you learn today, about yourself and about the world, will make so many things in your life easier. The most important thing you can learn is that possessions are not what it's all about.

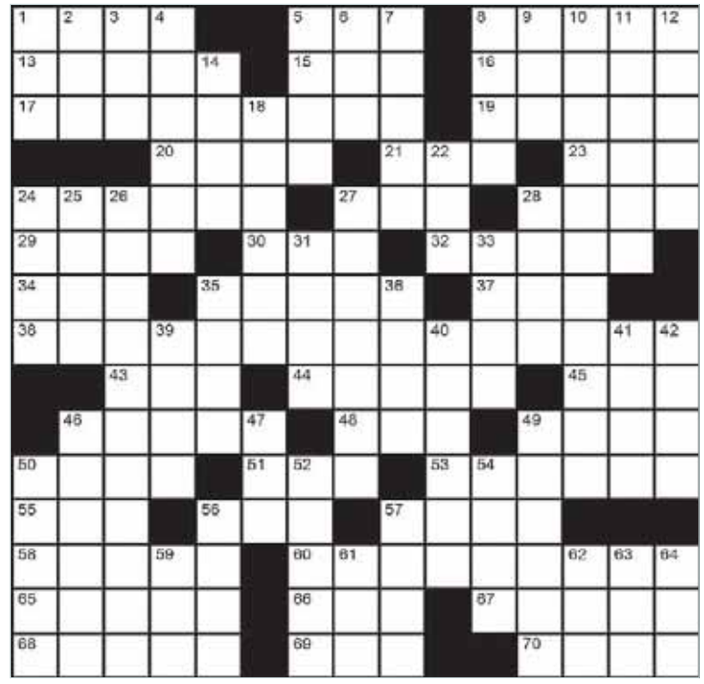
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be positive and be purposeful. Make the world sit up and take notice of your unique talents. You can accomplish more than you thought possible over the next few months, so forget about limits. They don't exist.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Everyone has rivals, even an Aquarius, and someone who resents your popularity will try to make life difficult for you over the next few days. They will only succeed if you fight fire with fire. Just ignore them.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What happens today will take you by surprise. The world is not the bad place that some people say it is. In fact, it is a wonderful place full of wonderful people. You're one of them. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

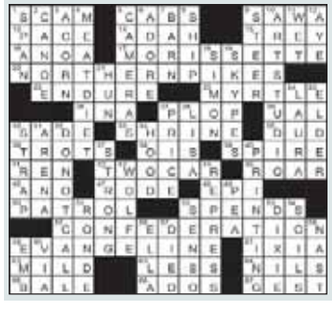
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Having wisdom
5. __ Leppard
8. Make hair wavy
13. Crunchy snacks
15. '60s singer, Little __
16. Pago Pago's land, American __
17. Canadian frozen seafood company: 2 wds.
19. Garth Brooks' "Friends __ __ Places"
20. Smashes
21. Business books balancers, briefly
23. 'Chlor' suffix
24. City in Washington state
27. Comprehend
28. Metal band, __ Row
29. In the blink __ eye: 2 wds.
30. Hairstyling product
32. Cosmetics company, __ Lauder
34. Damage
35. Sticker
37. __ coat
38. Steller's Jay is its provincial bird: 2 wds.
43. "Surprise!"
44. Big cat
45. Army unit on foot, for short
46. Connects
48. East: French
49. Encourage
50. Mr. McCartney
51. Ford, for one
53. Cherry-on-top dessert
55. 'Fool' suffix
56. Actor Mr. Robbins
57. Kind of citrus fruit
58. Some swords
60. __ Provincial Park, ON
65. "__ firma!" (Land!)
66. Roman Myth: Sun god
67. Other: French
68. Great enthusiasm [var. sp.]
69. Like a fox
70. Bunny costume props

Down
1. Teacher's workplace, for short
2. Hawaiian fish
3. Acting job
4. "Sleepless in Seattle" (1993) director Nora
5. Comfy house spots
6. Nightfall
7. Classic comedy, "Royal Canadian Air __"
8. Canuck spy agency, for short
9. 54-40 song: "Baby __"
10. Nelly Furtado hit: 4 wds.
11. Roughing It in the Bush author, Susanna __
12. 'Footed' like Fido
14. Criticize
18. Pictures
22. Had a hamburger
24. Archaeological discovery
25. In the distance
26. Wildlife group traversing the tundra: 2 wds.
27. Arctic formation
28. __ cell research
31. Genuine
33. Giddy-up helper
35. Celine of song
36. Fireplace ashes ...once
39. Plug away
40. Depart-togetherer's command: 2 wds.
41. "Young Frankenstein" (1974) role
42. For _ __ (It'll be done for money)
46. National park in Alberta
47. __-Fi
49. Original
50. Michelangelo masterpiece
52. Collect
54. Arm bone
56. Nicholas II was one
57. The __ Duckling
59. __ e Leandro (Luigi Mancinelli opera)
61. Chuckling one's e-mail shorthand
62. Stage actress Ms. Hagen
63. Out of the ordinary, for short
64. Tip to 'cafe' (Brand of coffee)

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3	6				8		
			9	2				5
2					3			7
		9	8		6		7	
	4			5			8	
	8		1		2	4		
9			7					4
1				3	5			
		4				6	5	

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	9	2	8	5	1	7	3	6
7	8	6	2	9	3	4	5	1
1	3	5	4	6	7	9	8	2
9	7	8	1	2	4	5	6	3
3	6	4	9	8	5	2	1	7
2	5	1	3	7	6	8	9	4
5	2	3	6	4	9	1	7	8
6	4	7	5	1	8	3	2	9
8	1	9	7	3	2	6	4	5

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1°/-7°
Flurries
40%
Thursday
-1°/-4°
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Sorento SX shown[1]

2013 SORENTO

INCL. AUTO, AIR & KEYLESS ENTRY

HWY (A/T): 6.5L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 9.8L/100KM

OWN IT FROM **$159*** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **$0** DOWN | AT **1.49%** APR FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS

COMPARE MORE HERE

- MORE MAXIMUM CARGO SPACE THAN HONDA CR-V[1]
- 2 MORE YEARS WARRANTY THAN FORD ESCAPE[2]
- MORE HORSEPOWER THAN TOYOTA RAV4[3]

OR VISIT WWW.KIA.CA/COMPARESORENTO

bi-weekly for 60 months, amortized over 84 months with **$0 DOWN PAYMENT.** $8,131 remaining balance. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $2,183 and **$1,650 "3 PAYMENTS ON US" SAVINGS*. BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $29,078.** Offer based on 2013 Sorento LX AT FWD.

Sportage SX shown[1]

2013 SPORTAGE

INCL. AUTO, AIR & KEYLESS ENTRY

HWY (A/T): 6.5L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 9.7L/100KM

OWN IT FROM **$154*** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **$0** DOWN | AT **1.99%** APR FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS

COMPARE MORE HERE

- MORE CARGO VOLUME THAN JEEP COMPASS[4]
- MORE HORSEPOWER THAN MAZDA CX-5[5]
- 2 MORE YEARS WARRANTY THAN NISSAN ROGUE[6]

OR VISIT WWW.KIA.CA/COMPARESPORTAGE

bi-weekly for 60 months, amortized over 84 months with **$0 DOWN PAYMENT.** $7,840 remaining balance. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $2,183 and **$750 LOAN SAVINGS[3]. BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $26,878.** Offer based on 2013 Sportage 2.4L LX AT FWD.

Soul 4u shown[1]

2013 SOUL

INCL. AIR, KEYLESS ENTRY & SATELLITE RADIO

HWY (M/T): 6.7L/100KM
CITY (M/T): 8.5L/100KM

OWN IT FROM **$124*** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **$0** DOWN | AT **1.49%** APR FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS

COMPARE MORE HERE

- 2 MORE YEARS WARRANTY THAN TOYOTA MATRIX[7]
- MORE HORSEPOWER THAN SCION XB[8]
- MORE PASSENGER VOLUME THAN NISSAN CUBE[9]

OR VISIT WWW.KIA.CA/COMPARESOUL

bi-weekly for 60 months, amortized over 84 months with **$0 DOWN PAYMENT.** $6,337 remaining balance. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $2,183. **BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $21,378.** Offer based on 2013 Soul 2.0L 2u MT.

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Offer(s) available on select new 2013 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery by April 1, 2013. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,650, $34 tire recycling/filter charges, $5 OMVIC fee, environmental fee and $100 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $599) and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. **0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013 Kia models. O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Sorento LX • AT (SR75B0) with a selling price of $29,078, financed at 0% APR for 60 months, 180 bi-weekly payments equal $224 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. ***Don't Pay For 90 Days" offer (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing on select new 2012/2013 models. No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After 90 days, interest accrues and the purchaser will repay both the principal and interest monthly over the contract's term. *"3 Payments On Us" offer is available O.A.C. to eligible retail customers who finance or lease a new 2013 Sorento from a participating dealer between March 1–April 1, 2013. Customers will receive a cheque in the amount of three payments (excluding taxes) to a maximum of $550 per month or can choose up to $1,650 reductions from the selling/lease price after taxes. Offer cannot be combined with Don't Pay For 90 Days promotion. *Bi-weekly finance payment O.A.C. for new 2013 Sorento LX AT FWD (SR75B0)/2013 Sportage LX AT FWD (SP75D)/2013 Soul 2.0L 2u MT (SO55B0) based on a selling price of $29,078/$26,878/$21,378 is $159/$154/$124 with an APR of 1.49%/1.99%/1.49% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,131/$7,840 /$6,337 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. [3]Loan savings for 2013 Sportage LX AT FWD (SP75D) is $750 and is available on purchase financing only O.A.C. Loan savings vary by model and are deducted from the selling price before taxes. Some conditions apply. [1]Sorento LX 2.0GL vs. CR-V LX 2.0DOHC, with second row seats folded. [2]60 months/100,000km vs. 36 months/60,000km. [3]Sorento LX 191hp vs. RAV4 LE 176hp. [4]Sportage LX 140L vs. Compass Sport/North 64.9L. [5]Sportage LX 176hp vs. CX-5 GS 155hp. [6]60 months/100,000km vs. 36 months/60,000km. [7]60 months/100,000km vs. 36 months/60,000km. [8]Soul 2.0U 164hp vs. Scion xB 158hp. [9]Soul 1.6L 2.89ft³ vs. Cube S 2.76L. [1]Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Sorento 3.5L SX AWD 7-seater (SR75A0)/2013 Sportage 2.0L SX Navigation (SP75A0)/2013 Soul 2.0L 4u Luxury AT (SO75A0) is $48,045/$39,145/$27,345 and includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650, environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). Licence, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $599), tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. Available at participating dealers. ^Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2013 Sorento 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Sportage 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Soul 2.0L MPI 4-cyl (M/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.